



MEDIA RELEASE

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National publication ranks Oceanside Collegiate Academy as sixth best high school in South Carolina

MOUNT PLEASANT – Oceanside Collegiate Academy has been ranked as the sixth best high school in South Carolina by the national school evaluation website School Digger. This ranking includes evaluation of more than 222 high schools across the Palmetto state.

“This is monumental for our Oceanside community,” said principal Brenda Corley. “The culmination of life changing work from our teachers, staff, coaches, students, parents, and a board who supports the school fully is paying off. We are so excited to be recognized by School Digger as one of the top high schools in South Carolina. We are Oceanside! We are The Landsharks!”

Oceanside opened its doors in 2016 as a tuition-free public charter school that serves students in grades 9-12 using an honors curriculum in grades 9-10, and a dual enrollment curriculum in grades 11-12. The dual enrollment program at OCA offers courses which allow students to concurrently earn high school and up to two years of college credit at zero cost to students or families.

Under the passionate leadership of Corley, Oceanside has already in 2019 successfully reached some of the long-term goals set by the South Carolina Department of Education for 2035. Mathematics has been one of the bottlenecks for a rounded achievement in K-12 education, but the 73% of students of Oceanside who scored C or better this year validate the instructional efforts of the school. Oceanside’s strong faculty team uses a dual approach to planning instruction with a granular focus on each standard while vertically aligning high school with college courses.

This week, the South Carolina Department of Education announced its Palmetto awards program winners. The program focuses on the following four report card indicators: Academic Achievement, Preparing for Success, Graduation Rate, and College/Career Readiness. Of these four indicators, Oceanside ranks in the top 4% of the 329 public high schools in South Carolina.

“When I saw the ranking for OCA from School Digger, I jumped out of my seat,” said board chair Marvin Arnsdorff. “This prestigious achievement directly correlates with the vision we all have for OCA. Our school community’s passion and love for our students is unmatched. They have all worked hard and created a premiere high school in South Carolina. We are thrilled for our Landsharks!”

Recently released data from the South Carolina Report Card shows that OCA outperforms the local district it resides in and the state in several categories:

	OCA	Charleston County School District	State
Graduation rate	99.3%	84.2%	81.1%
College or career ready	92.6%	78.3%	75.3%
End-of-course English I (C or higher)	66.4%	63.5%	56.3%
End-of-course Algebra I (C or higher)	73.0%	63.7%	54.9%

CEO and Superintendent of the Charter Institute at Erskine Cameron Runyan said, “Oceanside Collegiate Academy is having a profound impact on high school students in Charleston County. This news reflects the dedication to excellence the Landsharks have for public education across the board.”

Vamshi Rudrapati, Director of the Charter Institute at Erskine added, “Brenda Corley’s philosophy of servant leadership is unmatched. We always ask our schools, ‘How are you moving the needle?’ Seeing Oceanside regarded as one of the top schools in the state of South Carolina rings the bell. They are moving the needle. Congratulations to Mrs. Corley and all of the Landsharks!”

School Digger was founded in 2006 to serve one purpose: to empower parents like you to make informed choices about choosing a school for children. Their database contains detailed profiles for over 136,000 schools across the United States, including 20 years of enrollment data, several years of test scores, crime data, real estate data, and everything their team hopes is useful in helping parents make better school choices.

180-year-old Erskine College established the Charter Institute at Erskine in 2017 to improve public education across the state of South Carolina. The Institute currently authorizes 17 charter schools serving approximately 11,000 K-12 students. For more information, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.

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