



MEDIA RELEASE

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COLUMBIA, SC – On Monday, November 1, the Charter Institute at Erskine kicked off its third annual celebration of Virtual School Month.

Virtual School Month is an initiative started by the Charter Institute at Erskine to celebrate the accomplishments and growth of virtual charter schools in South Carolina. Throughout the month of November, the Charter Institute at Erskine and its six virtual charter schools (Cyber Academy of South Carolina, Lowcountry Connections Academy, Odyssey Online Learning, South Carolina Connections Academy, South Carolina Virtual Charter School, and The South Carolina Preparatory Academy) will be sharing content on their social media pages telling the stories of their schools. Other virtual schools, virtual education programs, teachers, students, and parents are encouraged to participate using the hashtags #VirtualSchoolMonth and #VSM2021.

The month will begin with a kickoff by Nathan Yon Institute Teacher of the Year Laura Ferguson, a 4th grade virtual teacher at South Carolina Connections Academy. Ms. Ferguson will also share tips and tricks that she has learned from her 10 years as a virtual teacher throughout November in a new video series.

“It was not long ago that virtual school was a little-known option for South Carolina students. The pandemic has changed so much for so many of us,” said Ms. Ferguson. “Along the way, it is changing how parents, students, and educators are viewing education.”

Other highlights of the month will include a “Day in the Life” video featuring Ainsley Crowe, a ninth-grade student at Cyber Academy of South Carolina and a Charter School Ambassador for the Charter Institute at Erskine. Ms. Crowe will walk viewers through her daily routine as a virtual high school student.

Academic achievements, strategies for instruction, and feature stories on virtual students and educators will also be highlighted.

The Charter Institute at Erskine is the premiere virtual charter school authorizer in the state, authorizing 6 virtual schools in South Carolina. Those schools collectively serve almost 16,000 students located in nearly every zip code in the state.

To participate in Virtual School Month, visit the Charter Institute at Erskine social media channels (@ErskineCharters) or post using the hashtags #VirtualSchoolMonth and #VSM2021.

The Charter Institute at Erskine is the fastest-growing charter school authorizer in South Carolina. Serving 26 schools and 24,000 students across the state, the Charter Institute at Erskine is committed to innovative, creative, high-quality methods of education. For more information about the Institute, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.

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