



MEDIA RELEASE

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Charter Institute at Erskine announces Belton Preparatory Academy as Diamond Award of Excellence Winner

ANDERSON, SC— Belton Preparatory Academy (BPA) has been named one of the Charter Institute at Erskine’s 2020-2021 Diamond Schools of Excellence. The Charter Institute at Erskine staff celebrated the accomplishments of Belton Preparatory Academy with a ceremony on Thursday, February 10 at the school, where they awarded the school with a commemorative banner. The school was also presented with House resolution H.4731 to recognize them for their outstanding performance, sponsored by Representative Jay West (R – Anderson).

Belton Preparatory Academy scored in the top 1% in the state in Math and in the top 2% in the state in English in the 2020-2021 school year. BPA is also the highest-performing Title I school in the state of South Carolina and the sixth highest-performing elementary school in the state.

The Charter Institute at Erskine, the authorizer of Belton Preparatory Academy and 25 other charter schools across the state, recognizes schools who have scored in the Top 10% of all South Carolina Department of Education schools in both English and Math as Diamond Schools of Excellence. The Schools of Excellence categories include Platinum and Gold.

“Belton Preparatory Academy is an example of what can be accomplished when a school commits itself to the goal of academic excellence and refuses to waiver in that commitment even in the face of great challenges,” said Mr. Cameron Runyan, Superintendent of the Charter Institute at Erskine. “The leadership at this school has inculcated a culture where staff, parents, and students hold themselves to the highest standards of excellence.”

At the event, principal Deirdre McCullough also recognized the BPA Teacher of the Year (Ms. Erica Shuler), the BPA Volunteer of the Year (Ms. Carly Donaldson) and the BPA Student of the Year (Ms. Kinsley Black, fifth grade). Student Kinsley Jenkins was also awarded a certificate for earning a perfect score on the SC Ready ELA test that she took during the 2020-2021 school year. Fourth and fifth grade students were also awarded medals for their performance on their state tests.

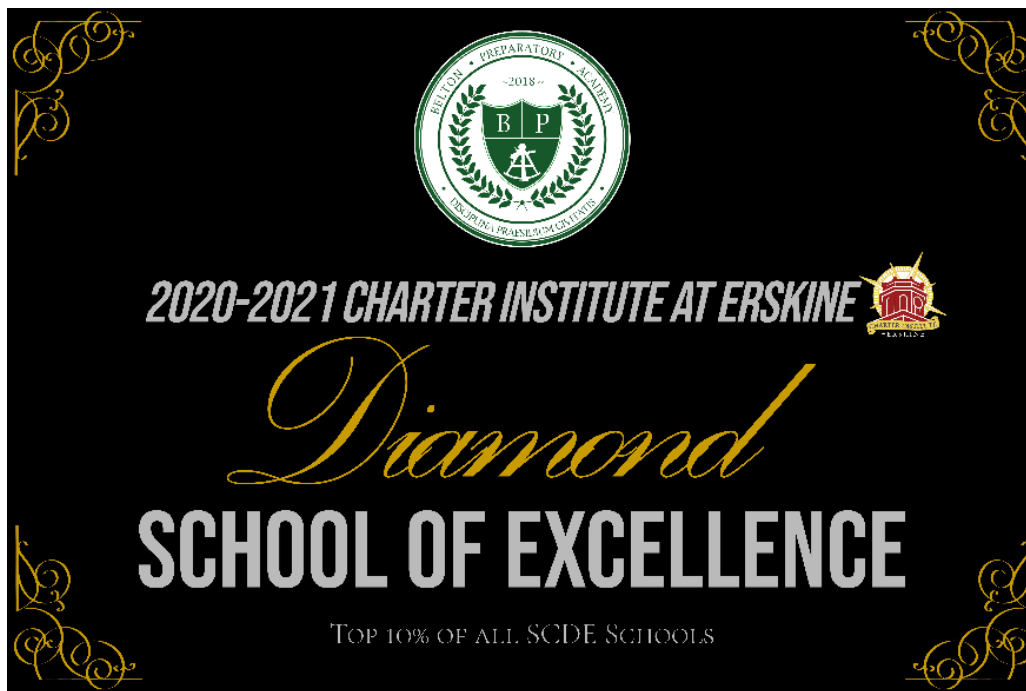
Belton Preparatory Academy’s classical curriculum provides high-quality instruction in phonics, Latin, logic, literature, history, math, and science (STEM). BPA’s entrepreneurial and free-market competition component emphasizes the development of leadership qualities and behaviors such as taking positive risks, viewing errors as opportunities, working to recover from a mistake, giving and receiving feedback, collaboration, and more.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to receive an award of this status from the Institute,” said Ms. Deirdre McCullough, school leader at Belton Preparatory Academy. “Today is truly a great day at BPA!”

For more information about the Charter Institute at Erskine’s School of Excellence Awards, visit <https://erskinecharters.org/accountabilitymodel>.

About The Charter Institute at Erskine

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.





Institute Superintendent Cameron Runyan and Chief of Accountability and Authorization Christy Junkins with Kinsley Jenkins, who earned a perfect score on her ELA standardized test.



Principal Deirdre McCullough, Institute staff, and CEO of Reason and Republic James Galyean with the students and staff of Belton Preparatory Academy.



Fifth grade teacher Christina Matasavage, BPA Principal Deirdre McCullough, and fourth grade teacher Erica Shuler with the fourth and fifth grade students at Belton Preparatory Academy.