



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Cyber Academy of South Carolina’s special education program recognized for superior operation**

**COLUMBIA** – Cyber Academy of South Carolina’s Jennifer Matthews was honored by the Charter Institute at Erskine for her dedication and commitment to excellence in special education. Matthews, Cyber Academy’s Special Programs Manager, was surprised with a trophy and a check for \$500 during the virtual school’s end-of-year professional development event in Columbia.

“This is such an honor for Cyber Academy to be recognized by the Charter Institute at Erskine,” Matthews said. “While my name may be on this award, our team is what made it all possible. Our mission is to serve our students and their families, and they deserve our best every day. That is what we strive for.”

Cyber Academy of South Carolina is one of 13 charter schools in South Carolina authorized by the Charter Institute at Erskine. The virtual school serves nearly 2,000 students, with about 18% of those being students with disabilities.

The Charter Institute at Erskine uses the Annual Review of Compliance (ARC), a transparent and collaborative process, to monitor schools’ compliance with various rules and regulations governing the education of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004. Cyber Academy earned a “Showcase” rating from the Institute after submitting additional evidences that went above and beyond their 12 standards required in the ARC.

“The work that Mrs. Matthews and Cyber Academy did this year made them the perfect candidate for the Charter Institute at Erskine’s first-ever Showcase Special Education program,” said Celina Patton, the Institute’s Chief of Student Services. “They submitted 12 different standards outlined in the ARC that demonstrates their special education program is innovative, cost-effective, and is setting new industry standards that positively impact outcomes for students with disabilities.”

David Crook, Cyber Academy’s Head of School, was thrilled to be a part of the announcement.

“Cyber Academy of South Carolina is dedicated to providing every student a first-class education,” Crook said. “Mrs. Matthews and our entire special education team represent what we value as a virtual school. We are beyond excited to be Charter Institute at Erskine’s first recipient of their Showcase Special Education program award.”

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 13 charter schools with nearly 10,000 students. Four additional schools are scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. For more information, please visit [www.erskinecharters.org](http://www.erskinecharters.org).

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