



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Royal Live Oaks Academy hosts second annual Multicultural Parade**

**HARDEEVILLE, SC** – Royal Live Oaks Academy of the Arts and Sciences Charter School (RLOACS) hosted the second annual Multicultural Parade on Thursday, April 28 on the school’s campus. The theme of the parade was “10 Years of Diversity” in celebration of the school’s upcoming ten-year anniversary in August of 2022.

Students of all ages carried flags, twirled ribbons, and performed dances inspired by research done in the classroom about countries around the world such as Venezuela, Kenya, China, Brazil, and India. Exchange students were able to represent their home countries with colorful flags and celebrations. Younger students, parents, and teachers lined the parade route to cheer on their peers.

“It’s important for children to be able to appreciate other cultures. Seeing our children be able to perform and to show us what they know in a different way other than what they would do in the classroom is really exceptional for us,” said Dr. Karen Wicks, founder and Executive Director of RLOACS. “My husband and I are the founders of this school, so [this event] tells us that we and a huge team did something right.”

Mayor of Hardeeville Harry Williams, RLOACS Board Member Ms. Lyn Boyles, and Director of Charter Institute at Erskine Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati joined RLOACS founders Dr. Karen Wicks and Mr. Les Wicks at the front of the parade. City of Hardeeville Police Chief Sam Woodward, City of Hardeeville Administrator Michael Czymbor, City of Hardeeville Councilman The Honorable John Carroll, Mr. Edward Moyd of The Jasper County School Board, Jasper County Municipal Judge The Honorable Nancy Gutierrez, Jasper County Council Chair Ms. Barbara Clark, and Jasper County Councilmen Alvin Adkins and John Kemp also attended the event.

“This is one of the best events I have seen in the past ten years. This is what America is about – embracing diversity,” said Rudrapati. “This school has reached beyond our expectations, and we are so excited for the future of Royal Live Oaks.”

RLOACS’s state-champion elementary school Robotics teams also walked in the parade carrying a banner celebrating their upcoming trip to the World Championships in Dallas. RLOACS’s basketball team, cheerleaders, and regional champion soccer team joined in the march.

Also represented in the parade were the Sun City Lions Club, the Red Hat Ladies, the Hardeeville Senior Center, the Hardeeville Rec Center, Bikers Against Bullying, Mr. Michael Benton representing the Native Indians and Lowcountry Powwow, and the Hardeeville Fire Department.

RLOACS will celebrate its tenth anniversary in August after opening its doors in 2012. RLOACS was renewed for another ten-year period by the Charter Institute at Erskine on April 20, 2022. Royal Live Oaks is excited to serve the Hardeeville and Jasper areas for the next ten years and beyond as a high-quality school choice option and community hub for learning.

*Royal Live Oaks is a free, public charter school located in Jasper County of South Carolina. Serving students in grades K-12, Royal Live Oaks' mission statement is to "provide a rigorous academic environment that fosters integrity and resilience."*

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*Board Member Lin Boyles, Director of the Charter Institute at Erskine Vamshi Rudrapati, RLOACS student Esteban Benitez Mendoza, and RLOACS Founders Dr. Karen and Mr. Les Wicks lead the parade.*



*Students gather to watch the parade.*



*A group of students march with colorful flags to celebrate diversity and cultures around the world.*