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Creek Bridge STEM Academy wins district's annual wellness award

Marion, SC – Marion County School District celebrated six schools and their wellness efforts last month as part of Healthy Me – Healthy SC, a partnership between Clemson University and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

During the 2023-2024 school year, six Marion County schools earned wellness awards because of their participation in MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness (BCCW) School-based Wellness Initiative. Since 2010, the BCCW has supported schools in creating healthy learning environments through participation in the School-based Wellness Initiative across the state.

The Initiative works with schools to create a culture of wellness by providing direct support and motivation for K-12 schools and districts as they implement evidence-based policy, system, and environmental strategies targeting improved nutrition, increased physical activity, enhanced social emotional wellness for both students and staff.

Participating schools who meet the minimum requirements received a wellness award that can be used to help grow and sustain their wellness initiatives. In total, \$8,000 went to Marion County schools for the 2023-2024 school year. Easterling Primary School, Marion Intermediate, McCormick Elementary, North Mullins Primary, and the Academy of Early Learning each received \$1,000 in prize money. The grand prize winner was Creek Bridge STEM Academy and was awarded \$3,000.

Dr. Kandace Bethea, Superintendent of Marion County School District, expressed her enthusiasm for the program's impact: "We're excited to see our schools continue their health journey and hope to see additional schools get involved. We know that good physical health also leads to good mental health and overall wellness. When students are well, they learn!"

"With support from our community and the work of our partnering schools, we are achieving our vision, a South Carolina where all children are healthy, succeed in school, and thrive in life," said Dr. Key, MUSC BCCW Founder and Director.

For more information, contact Bailee Floyd at bailee@clemson.edu.

For more information about MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness visit musckids.org/boeingcenter or email boeingcenter@musc.edu.