

State Leader Comes to Colleton



S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman speaks with students during a visit Thursday to Cougar New Tech at Colleton County High School. Spearman visited Colleton County as part of her statewide effort to see area schools. Photo by Heather Walters.

South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman visited Colleton County last week, meeting with students at two local schools.

The visit is part of Spearman’s pledged commitment to visit public schools in South Carolina. The trip to Colleton, however, was spurred by a recent trip that a group of Colleton’s choral students took to Columbia to perform for a statewide school board meeting, according to Colleton County Superintendent Dr. Franklin Foster. At that performance, Spearman was invited to come to Colleton.

On Thursday, she visited Colleton County High School and Northside Elementary. Specifically, Spearman spoke with students at Colleton County High’s New Tech program. New Tech is a unique educational segment of the high school: New Tech students focus on how technology can help them succeed in practical post-high school life. “Your parents voted me into office, and I’m here to talk about changes and improvements to education,” Spearman told CCHS New Tech students.

Melissa Crosby is the principal of Colleton County High School and one of the original founders of the New Tech campus. She said she was elated to have Spearman at the school, mostly so that the school’s students could showcase their talents. “All state and local leaders should spend a considerable amount of time in schools for several reasons,” said Crosby. “First, it is vital that these individuals connect to the students they represent to ensure that the best interest of the children are always at the center of the decision making process. These visits also give schools an opportunity to showcase the wonderful things that are happening inside of their doors each and every day,” she said.

Spearman’s coming to Colleton was also celebrated by district officials, who met with Spearman earlier Thursday morning at the district’s main office building. There, the state’s education leader attended a discussion between Foster and other district officials. Local school board members were also invited to attend that meeting. After leaving that meeting, Spearman headed to Colleton County High School and then to Northside Elementary School.

“The visit from Superintendent Spearman was especially meaningful because she has been a champion of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, a commitment that the State of South Carolina is making to ensure that all students are college and career ready,” said Crosby. “Colleton County School District is at the forefront of educational innovation and continues to be a leader in reimagining schools.”

Foster says it is important for the local school district to keep its communication lines open with state leaders, so that Colleton’s districtwide needs stay relevant to South Carolina officials.

“Additionally, these visits afford school leaders an opportunity to reiterate some of the many pressing needs we face,” added Crosby.



Heather Walters (1020 Posts)