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## Laura Clark named CCSD Teacher of the Year for 2016-17 | Congrats Colleton | The Press and Standard

by THE PRESS AND STANDARD ([HTTP://WALTERBOROLIVE.COM/AUTHOR/KATRENAMCCALL/](http://walterborolive.com/author/katrenamccall/)) | August 27, 2016 5:00 PM

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*"An outstanding teacher perseveres to overcome all of this and puts the interest of the students first and foremost."*

– Laura Clark, CCSD Teacher of the Year for 2016-17

By CINDY CROSBY  
cindyc4@yahoo.com

Laura M. Clark, Colleton County High School facilitator and Cougar New Tech teacher in Spanish and Social Entrepreneurship, has been named the 2016-17 District Teacher of the Year for the Colleton County School District (CCSD). Entering her seventh year as an educator, Clark serves as the chair of the Foreign Language Department and advisor for Young Agents of Change. Other finalists included Eddie Peeples from Colleton County Middle School and Amy Hilton from Forest Hills Elementary.

As a result of being named as CCSD Teacher of the Year, Clark will now compete for South Carolina Teacher of the Year. "It is certainly an honor," she said. "I am really excited to share with others, in and out of our district, all of the great things we have going on in Colleton County schools." The selection process began last school year when, according to Clark, CCHS teachers submitted nominations. The faculty and staff then voted on the nominations, with Clark earning the title. The nomination is open to all full-time and part-time teachers who have served in a regular teaching position with the CCSD for a minimum of 12 months and whose service has been truly outstanding in their contribution to the overall purpose of the district.

Each Teacher of the Year on the school level must then submit an application to be considered for the district competition. For the 2016-17 school year, a judging panel narrowed the applicants down to three: Clark, Peeples and Hilton. The three finalists then submitted a 10-minute video during which they answered two questions in regard to critical issues in public education and their most memorable teaching experience.

"Colleton County High School is extremely proud of Laura Clark," said Dr. Melissa Crosby, Principal. "We are looking forward to sharing all of her accomplishments at the state level. She is a devoted educator with a passion for learning and commitment to bettering our students and our community."

Clark earned her bachelor of arts in Spanish from the College of Charleston and completed graduate courses in project management, also at the College of Charleston. She completed her master of education in divergent learning at Columbia College. Her professional associations include America Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Southern Conference on Language Teaching and the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

Clark also served as the past president and current vice president of Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter.

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