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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZED IN MUSC BCCW SCHOOL-BASED WELLNESS INITIATIVE: ELLOREE ELEMENTARY EARNs GRAND PRIZE

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – In an outstanding display of commitment to holistic education, over 20 schools from Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) have been recognized in the Medical University of South Carolina’s (MUSC) BCCW School-based Wellness Initiative. The initiative serves as an instrumental tool in promoting health and wellness amongst K-12 students, staff, and the wider school community.

Each of the winning schools will receive $1,000 in recognition of their exceptional efforts to cultivate a wellness culture, underpinned by best-practice strategies and policies tailored to their unique needs and resources. The Initiative serves as a motivational platform for schools, advocating for improvements in areas like nutrition, physical activity, social emotional wellness, and staff wellness.
Elloree Elementary School deserves a special mention as the recipient of the grand prize, being awarded $2,000 for their extraordinary dedication to creating a vibrant and supportive wellness culture.

The MUSC BCCW School-based Wellness Initiative is more than just a program; it's a customizable model offering schools the freedom and flexibility to adopt practices that best meet their individual needs. Schools are assisted by the School Wellness Checklist, a tool that guides the implementation of wellness strategies across seven categories and tracks progress throughout the school year.

The initiative also underscores the value of collaboration, with MUSC Program Coordinators providing ongoing support, training, and technical assistance. This collaborative approach extends to the community, with Coordinators fostering partnerships that align community wellness efforts with school initiatives.

A significant aspect of the initiative is the creation or maintenance of a functioning school wellness committee. These committees undertake annual needs assessments, setting goals and selecting SWC strategies accordingly. As part of the Initiative, these committees receive ongoing support from an MUSC Program Coordinator, along with a monetary award to further their wellness projects.

The Orangeburg County School District extends its gratitude to MUSC for their invaluable initiative and continues to commit itself to promoting a culture of health, wellness, and overall development in its schools.

**Orangeburg County School District**

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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