



South Carolina High School League

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beaufort High School Theatre Students, Educator win National Award

The South Carolina High School League is proud to announce the Beaufort High School theatre students and instructor, LaRaine Fess, have been named the 2019 National Federation of High Schools HEART OF THE ARTS award winner. This is the very first submission by the SCHSL for the NFHS HOA award and the fifth year the award has been given.

"The performance shared by these young professionals is not only informative, but high energy and captive. I was moved as I watched them and truly proud to call them South Carolina students. Our guests from around the southeast were left speechless and inspired. Just another example of the many talents we encompass in our schools, including multi-talented student-athletes that take part in organizations such as this. Congratulations to a well deserving group of students and educator," stated Commissioner Jerome Singleton.

This award recognizes individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities. Although SCHSL is an athletics only entity, the NFHS encourages each state to submit nominees they feel share the common belief that athletics and academics are solid partners in education; to include arts education.

The Heart of the Arts award will be presented to Mrs. Fess at the Annual NFHS National Conference and 100th Anniversary Celebration on July 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She and her husband will be special guests for several celebrations and commemorative events.

"Mrs. Fess and her students are able to reach a variety of demographically diverse audiences through unique dramatic skills. As the production unfolds, the anti-bullying message is clear, demanding even. See something, say something no matter what. Powerful actors with an empowering message. We are thrilled for national attention to be placed on South Carolina's excellent schools and programs," states Tammie Newman, Communications and Public Relations Director.

The 2019 SCHSL Student Leadership Summit on March 29 will introduce the Beaufort High School theatre group to hundreds of South Carolina student-athletes when they present their anti-bullying message as well as kickoff a special initiative with SLS participants.

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