



MEDIA RELEASE

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Royal Live Oaks Academy receives nearly \$13,000 in Bright Ideas grants

HARDEEVILLE – Innovation in the classroom will continue to be a staple for Royal Live Oaks Academy.

14 teachers at the K-12 arts and sciences charter school in Jasper County received Bright Ideas grants totaling \$12,897 on October 30. Bright Ideas is a grant program offered by the Palmetto Electric Trust and Palmetto Electric Cooperative that provides funding for innovative classroom-based education projects.

“This is such a big deal for us, because for projects like these, we don’t always have it built into our funding,” said Lauren Traynham, the school’s director for project-based learning. “These materials and resources that we’ll purchase from the Bright Ideas grant will impact our students significantly for years to come.”

Traynham assisted in writing the grant “The Need to Lead”, a project focused on the school’s character education program that will target students K-8 and help them develop leadership skills in and outside of the classroom. A few of the other projects funded by grants include: “Water is Life!”, “Tail Waggers Who Motivate Children to Use Their Full Brain Potential”, and “Royal Knights Media Club.”

Since Palmetto Electric launched the program in 2004, area teachers in Hampton, Jasper and southern Beaufort counties have received over \$510,256 in grants. Royal Live Oaks Academy has received Bright Ideas grants each year since opening in 2012, totaling over \$36,000.

“Receiving these grants just shows me the quality of teachers we have here at Royal Live Oaks Academy,” said school leader Dr. Karen Wicks. “These projects tie directly into what our school is all about and that is developing leadership among our teachers and our students.”

180-year-old Erskine College established the Charter Institute at Erskine in mid-2017, to improve education in public charter schools across the state of South Carolina. The Institute currently serves as the Sponsor for 13 schools with an additional seven schools currently scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. For more information, please visit

www.erskinecharters.org.

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