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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2021

River Bluff High Awarded for Supporting Senior Students in Applying to College, Kicks Off Month-Long Celebration

Columbia, SC—Today, the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) presented River Bluff High School (RBHS) the 2019 School of Excellence award. Developed collaboratively by the CHE and the American College Application Campaign (ACAC, affiliate of ACT), the award recognizes RBHS's counseling office for supporting seniors' postsecondary education pursuits through a variety of college access programs. For many high school seniors, particularly those who will become first-generation collegegoers and those from low-income households, the resources and assistance available through these programs are critical to their continued educations. The award was presented to Dr. Luke Clamp, principal of RBHS, by Mr. Ben Satcher, Jr., CHE commissioner from the Lexington area, during a small gathering at the school.

Marci Newman, director of school counseling for River Bluff, attended the award presentation. She remarked, "Helping students graduate to higher education—helping give them direction for life after high school—is one of the greatest services we perform as a school. Our college access programs have been key components in our strategy to make good on that. We're honored to be recognized for our efforts with this award."

The presentation kicks off South Carolina's College & Career Decision Month program, which runs between April 19 and May 14. Conducted virtually again this year as a precaution for COVID-19, the program will bring together public officials, higher education leaders, industry and military representatives, and local celebrities, to celebrate seniors' graduations and express support for their postsecondary decisions—whether they plan on entering the workforce, attaining a workforce certification, attending a traditional 2- or 4-year school, or enlisting in the military.

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of CHE's Office of Student Services, commented, "This year, seniors have worked extremely hard throughout their time in high school to prepare for postsecondary education or enlist in the military... The class of 2021 faced great challenges

due to the COVID pandemic, continued to persevere throughout those final steps and made a decision about the next phase of their lives. This was not an easy process for many, and we support and celebrate these extraordinary, resilient seniors who are ready (and well positioned) to move forward through any future challenges. Congratulations to the class of 2021!”

Tune into CHE’s social media (@SCCommHigherEd on Twitter and @SCCommHigherEdu on Facebook) to engage with the celebration.

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ABOUT CHE:

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), established in 1967, serves as the coordinating board for South Carolina’s 33 public institutions of higher learning. It acts both as an oversight agency on behalf of the General Assembly and as an advocate for higher education. The CHE is responsible for assuring a balance between student and taxpayer interests and institutional policies, aspirations, and needs. The CHE is committed to access, affordability, and quality in the state system of higher education through coordination, regulation, advocacy and oversight, as directed by the General Assembly.



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