



## **RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO**

COMMUNICATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS DEPARTMENT  
CONTACT: THERESA RILEY STEPHENS 803.738.3232 FAX: 803.738.3334

EMAIL: [TRILEY@RICHLAND2.ORG](mailto:TRILEY@RICHLAND2.ORG)

WEBSITE: [WWW.RICHLAND2.ORG](http://WWW.RICHLAND2.ORG)

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **THE PROJECT CARE COALITION HONORED AT CADCA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM**

COLUMBIA, S.C. — On Feb. 7, The Project CARE Coalition was one of 171 community coalitions honored during a graduation ceremony at CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C. The coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA), a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community drug prevention leaders.

"I am so proud of our coalition for taking advantage of this opportunity. To graduate from this year-long intensive course is no small feat. Dr. Shirley Vickery, Executive Director of Instructional Support Services; Terina Gardner and Tressa Wright, school counselors; helped The Project CARE Coalition become more prepared today to be an effective, sustainable coalition because of their participation in this training," said Javana D. Lovett, Project Director. "We look forward to applying our knowledge and strategies to ensure the youth in the Richland Two community live drug free."

The coalition recently worked on sustainability planning with The Weathers Group, launched a community and holiday awareness billboard campaign with Lamar Advertising, and hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Training for 150+ middle and high school students sponsored by Craig Plank – State Farm, Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union, Jones Marketing and Sales Group, and Scottie's Café and Grill.

CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive, year-long training program developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute. The NCA incorporates three, week-long classroom sessions, a web-based distance learning component, an online workstation where participants network and share planning products and free ongoing technical assistance. To graduate, coalitions must complete a rigorous curriculum. They

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must participate in all components of the NCA and complete five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of their comprehensive plan for community change.

CADCA's National Leadership Forum is a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies to address substance abuse and hear from nationally-known prevention experts, federal administrators, and concerned policymakers. The Forum brings together approximately 3,000 attendees representing coalitions from all regions of the country and internationally, government leaders, youth, prevention specialists, addiction treatment professionals, addiction recovery advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals, and faith-based leaders. It is the largest training event for the prevention field.

The Project CARE Coalition is the district's Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program recipient and seeks to create conditions that empower families, schools, and communities to reduce substance abuse and other high risk behaviors. More information about this initiative is available at: [www.theprojectcarecoalition.org](http://www.theprojectcarecoalition.org).

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