

WCSD Featured Story



*News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District
Provided by the Williamsburg County School District Office of Public Relations*

Interview of Dr. Zaria O'Bryant South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Accelerate Virtual Engineering Program



Q: What is the actual name of the new program?

A: GSSM Accelerate Virtual Engineering Program

Q: How would this program benefit students?

A: The Accelerate program is closely aligned with the first year of a General Engineering program. Students who successfully complete the Accelerate program are well prepared to enter college as sophomores ready to select an engineering discipline or a related program of study.

Q: How many students are currently enrolled?

A: GSSM currently serves 85 students across the state of S.C. in the Accelerate Virtual Engineering program.

Q: What makes this program so attractive for students?

A: Students enjoy the challenge of taking advanced math, science and engineering courses. They also are Dually enrolled as both high school and college students. Finally, they are exposed to the content, pace and rigor of an engineering curriculum.

Q: Who do students need to contact in order to enroll?

A: We will schedule an information session in your school or district soon. The guidance counselor and administrator will share the time and date of that meeting when it is scheduled. At that meeting, families will receive information about the program, the application process, and who to contact regarding either.

Q: Are students still enrolled in their regular high school and this program simultaneously?

A: Students enrolled in the GSSM Accelerate program remain students of their home high school and district. They will be scheduled for 3 hours a day for Accelerate courses. The remainder of the day is utilized for other required and desired courses in their district.

Q: What is something else that you would like to share about the program?

A: In addition to the coursework, students have Summer Learning Experiences each summer that help to support classroom learning with hands on team-based projects and research. Rising sophomore will attend a weeklong Base Camp on the SC GSSM campus in Hartsville. Rising Juniors attend USC for a week during the summer followed by Clemson University as rising seniors. As an alternative for rising seniors interested in more research, all seniors affiliated with GSSM are offered research placements that could last up to 6 weeks during the summer. All of these valuable experience are at no charge to families, schools, or districts.