



# Williamsburg County School District

*"Imagine Greatness"*

Post Office Box 1067 · Kingstree, South Carolina 29556  
Telephone (843) 355-5571 Fax (843) 355-3213  
[www.wcsd.k12.sc.us](http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us)

*Dr. Angela K. Jacobs, Interim Superintendent*

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### FINAL YEAR OF THE ROSE

April 20, 2026

In the March 2024 USC CAP article, I highlighted the candidates' experiences. Mrs. Theresa Woodberry was one of the Carolina CAP teachers I had the privilege of working with over the past three years. When I began my journey supporting teachers, I often compared their instructional growth to one of my favorite books, *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden*. In the story, Mrs. Spitzer carefully plants a variety of seeds, nurturing each one with patience and intention. I drew inspiration from this metaphor as I supported educators at Hemingway Elementary, where Mrs. Woodberry teaches.

I vividly recall comparing her classroom practice to the life of a rose—beautiful, unique, and full of potential. Like a rose, her growth depended on care, guidance, and thoughtful cultivation. A rose may thrive in open spaces, but it cannot simply be planted without careful and consistent effort. Mrs. Woodberry embraced feedback wholeheartedly, thoughtfully incorporating strategies and ideas into her daily planning.

Now, Mrs. Woodberry has reached the culmination of her Carolina CAP experience, successfully meeting all guidelines and expectations to complete the program. As I reflect on this three-year journey, the rose remains a fitting symbol of her growth. When properly nurtured, a rose can flourish over time, and Mrs. Woodberry has done just that—enduring challenges and overcoming obstacles along the way.

She addressed scholars' academic needs by providing targeted, high-dosage Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). Through intentional small-group instruction, she reinforced standards and strengthened reading comprehension. Careful data tracking allowed her to monitor and celebrate steady, measurable progress. Like a rose that takes time to establish strong roots before producing abundant blooms, Mrs. Woodberry's journey required perseverance. I saw in her both the potential and the determination to thrive—and she did. Today, she stands ready to continue impacting the lives of the scholars she serves. She continues to bloom.

As her final year approached, the rose—Mrs. Woodberry—stood taller. No longer a delicate sprout shielded from the elements, she became a resilient flower that had weathered seasons of change, care, and challenge. Where her petals were once tentative and her roots still searching, they are now grounded, vibrant, and strong.

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Like a rose nearing full bloom, she has unfolded layers of confidence, clarity, and conviction. There were days warmed by sunlight—when lessons flowed effortlessly, students responded enthusiastically, and growth felt certain. There were also storms—moments of self-doubt, student challenges, and lessons that did not go as planned. Yet, she did not close. She endured.

Throughout this final year, Mrs. Woodberry learned not only how to receive support—from mentors, colleagues, and feedback—but also how to extend it. Her petals, once guarded, opened outward: to nurture students, support peers, and contribute meaningfully to her school community.

A rose, though admired for its beauty, also bears thorns—not as weapons, but as symbols of strength, protection, and boundaries. Mrs. Woodberry developed these as well. She learned to advocate for her students, to stand firm in professional settings, and to uphold her values even in the face of pressure.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of a rose's final season is the quiet act of seeding—often unseen, yet deeply impactful. As Mrs. Woodberry approached the completion of the Carolina CAP Program, she began planting ideas, cultivating curiosity, and inspiring growth in those around her.

By the end of the year, she was not merely surviving—she was flourishing, fully immersed in the work of educating scholars. Like any living thing, she still requires care, support, and continued growth. Yet she has become more than a recipient of guidance—she has become a cultivator of it.

She has become a garden.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the planting process.

**Submitted by:**

Dr. Ernestine Young

Carolina CAP Coach

Deputy Superintendent of Federal Programs and Extended Learning

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