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**DR. KANDACE BETHEA**  
*Superintendent*

## **Marion County School District of Practical Nursing Celebrates Graduation**

Marion, SC- On Thursday, May 23, 2024, the Marion County School District of Practical Nursing senior class celebrated graduation at the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center. The ceremony began at 6:00 p.m., culminating in the students' rigorous training and dedication.

Mr. Michael Stone, Director of the Academy for Careers and Technology (ACT), warmly welcomed guests to the event. Highlights of the evening included the presentation of graduate awards: Breanna Bennett received the Best Clinical Nurse award, Holly Martin was honored with the Scholastic Achievement Award, and Tiffany Wilson was recognized as the Most Improved Student.

Kwame Hennagan, an instructor at ACT, provided music for the processional and recessional, adding a harmonious touch to the ceremony.

Mrs. Alicia Whittington from ACT introduced the guest speaker, Susan Baker, RN, who delivered an inspiring speech to the graduates. Dr. Kandace Bethea, Superintendent of Marion County Schools, Ms. Nadine Foxworth, Chair of the Marion County School District Board, and Mr. Michael Stone presented each graduate with a certificate of completion. Instructors Mrs. Misty Owens, Mrs. Tracy Oakley, and Mrs. Alicia Whittington bestowed the school pins on the graduates. Additionally, the Marion Auxiliary of the Gideons provided white New Testament Bibles to those graduates who wished to receive one.

During a significant moment, the graduating class collectively recited the Practical Nurse's Pledge, solidifying their commitment to the nursing profession. The cohort includes the following graduates: Johnashia Abram, Shanitta Alford, Breanna Bennett, Suzette Gourdine, Samyra Joyner, Holly Martin, Gerline McAllister, Jaquiesha McLellan, Lakeisha Mearite, LaCosta Mumford, Haley Smith, Elizabeth Spates, Traveon Teshima, Shannon Warner, Lynnisha Watson, and Tiffany Wilson.

The ceremony was a fitting tribute to the graduates' hard work and achievements as they began their professional journeys in nursing.

Susanne Elvington  
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Marion County School District