Colleton County High School's Cougar New Tech Entrepreneurial Academy was featured Monday in TransformSC’s statewide conference on innovative approaches to education. Dr. Franklin Foster, superintendent, Mrs. Jessica Williams, director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Cliff Warren, principal of Colleton County High School, Darlene Miller, board member, Harry Jenkins, board member, along with other district administrators, teachers and students were among 700 educators, business leaders, policymakers and other community leaders attendance. Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce President Jeremy Ware and The Press and Standard Publisher Barry Moore represented the business community.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the many exciting initiatives going on in Cougar New Tech. Dr. Melissa Crosby, director, Joshua Cable, teacher, and Samantha Calcutt, student, and her father, Dr. Drew Calcutt, presented at the conference.

Colleton County High School participates in TransformSC’s network of 37 schools and 20 districts from across the state. The initiative is a coalition of educators, parents, students, business leaders and policymakers united around a common vision: The Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. It has been adopted by TransformSC’s network of schools, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, the State Board of Education, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the Education Oversight Committee. TransformSC schools and districts are designing, launching, promoting and proving transformative practices in the classroom.

"For the first time in decades educators, business leaders, policy makers, parents and students agree on a vision for graduates to be successful in college, careers and citizenship. It will be a long-term effort, but we believe we can make a positive difference across the state with continued engagement of all groups in our coalition," said Mike Brenan, co-chair of TransformSC and state president of BB&T.

the program opened with 80 students, and this year has 160 students. Next year, due to popular demand, the district is planning to expand the program to reach more students.

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