

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jessica Daniel named SC PLT Outstanding Educator of the Year

COLUMBIA — Dr. Jessica Daniel of Sumter has been named the 2020 South Carolina Project Learning Tree Jerry L. Shrum Outstanding Educator of the Year. She was selected by the South Carolina PLT Steering Committee in early June.

Also the 2019 South Carolina Project Learning Tree Facilitator of the Year, Daniel has been an instructor in Central Carolina Technical College's Natural Resources Management program since 2016, where she has included PLT curriculum delivery and training in many of her courses, primarily as a mechanism to help students understand difficult natural resources management concepts.

In 2018, she became certified as a PLT, Project WET and Project WILD facilitator, and since then, she has provided PLT certification trainings to area elementary and middle school teachers. Daniel has offered to extend PLT trainings to more local teachers and encouraged teachers to use PLT materials and resources in creative ways in their classrooms.

In other trainings and events held with fellow faculty at CCTC, she has used PLT as an example of creative ways to integrate environmental education and hands-on learning into courses. Daniel also uses several other PLT lessons as foundations for class activities, building on them and tying them into other material as appropriate for college-level courses. All the Natural Resources Management students at CCTC complete a PLT training during their second year in the program.

She loves sharing her passion and knowledge for environmental conservation and stewardship with her students, as well as providing the support necessary so they can succeed in their chosen professions. A mother of one, Daniel lives in Sumter with her husband, but will be moving to Auburn, Ala., in August to take a position with Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.



Dr. Jessica Daniel

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Project Learning Tree is a nationwide, award-winning environmental education program that supplements curricula used by teachers, parents, and community leaders for students from preschool to 12th grade. A program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, PLT uses trees and forests as windows on the world to advance environmental literacy and promote stewardship to students while fostering professional development among the educators who use it. In South Carolina, PLT is sponsored by the Forestry Association of South Carolina's SC Forestry Foundation, the SC Forestry Commission and the State Department of Education.