

## Charlotte Latin School Director of Diversity and Inclusion Recognized with Community Leadership Award

*Taylor traveled to Washington, D.C. for ceremony*

**Charlotte, N.C.** – Charlotte Latin School Director of Diversity and Inclusion Sonja Taylor received the 2016 Director's Community Leadership Awards and was formally recognized last month at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., along with with 58 individuals and organizations from around the country for their efforts to build stronger, safer, and more cohesive communities.

Taylor has a long history of service focused on sharing her knowledge and expertise in STEM. Her service work before joining the faculty and staff at Charlotte Latin includes the Columbia Urban League, who awarded her their President's Award in 2013, the Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands, and 100 Black Men of Myrtle Beach. She was awarded the DCLA for her efforts to promote social justice and advance STEM access and learning in communities across South Carolina.

"Sonja joined Charlotte Latin's faculty and staff in April, and already her impact is felt by our School community and in our great city as well," says Charlotte Latin School Headmaster Arch N. McIntosh, Jr. "We are proud of her for this esteemed honor and thrilled that she brings this experience and commitment to her role at Latin. Our future is stronger and brighter with her leadership."



The annual Director's Community Leadership Awards were launched in 1990 as a way to spotlight individuals and organizations for their work in combating crime, drugs, terrorism, and violence. Recipients were also recognized for their work in bridging the relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve, developing strategies to battle the nation's opioid crisis, and assisting victims of human trafficking, among other efforts.

In his remarks, Comey said this year's recipients embodied the words attributed to the 16th century minister John Wesley, who said, "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

Comey related a story about speaking to young audiences and warning them against losing sight of what really matters in life. He would ask them to close their eyes, imagine they were old, and then ask themselves: *Who do I want to have been?* "I know some of you want to have been people who made a difference for those who needed you," he would tell the kids, "to have been people who chose lives of moral content, who stood there for the bullied and the picked on and the frightened."

"Why am I telling you this?" Comey asked. "This auditorium is filled with people who have already answered the question in the most remarkable way. You will have been those people. We're here today to thank you for being that. Because of you, the FBI is better. Because of you, the United States of America is better."