



# MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release – August 12, 2021**

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## **Governor Henry McMaster speaks at new Lowcountry charter school's ribbon cutting**

**SUMMERVILLE, SC** – South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster joined the Berkeley Preparatory Academy team and members of the Charter Institute at Erskine's leadership at the Berkeley Preparatory Academy ribbon cutting ceremony, hosted on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

Berkeley Preparatory Academy, a new charter school authorized by the Charter Institute at Erskine, officially opened its brand-new facility to the community on Thursday morning. A highlight of the event was Governor McMaster's remarks on school choice in South Carolina.

“This education is central, central to everything that we do,” said Governor McMaster. “I believe this time South Carolina is going to lead.”

Berkeley Preparatory Academy's mission statement is to “provide an unwavering dedication to student achievement and an unyielding commitment to foster educational excellence in a global society”. Berkeley Preparatory Academy will serve students in grades K-6 in its opening year under the leadership of Dr. William Roach.

Other notable guests at the event included Dr. Stewart Weinberg, President of the Berkeley Charter Education Association, Mr. Jon Hage, CEO of Charter Schools USA, and Mr. Cameron Runyan, Superintendent of the Charter Institute at Erskine.

“We believe in high support and high accountability. We believe that we are partners with y'all to help you achieve success for the students of South Carolina and your communities,” said Superintendent Runyan.

Berkeley Preparatory Academy will welcome over 550 students on its first day of classes, being held on Monday, August 16. The “BPA Bulldogs” have already hosted several events for students and teachers to meet each other prior to school opening. For more information about the school, visit <https://berkeleyprepacademy.org/#>.

Download photos, interviews, and a full media package here. [Press Link](#)

*The Charter Institute at Erskine is South Carolina’s only higher-education charter school authorizer. Serving 26 schools and 24,000 students across the state, the Charter Institute at Erskine is committed to innovative, creative, high-quality methods of education. For more information about the Institute, please visit [www.erskinecharters.org](http://www.erskinecharters.org).*



Governor Henry McMaster, Superintendent Cameron Runyan, Principal Dr. William Roach, Board Chair Dr. Stewart Weinberg and others cut the ribbon.



Dr. Weinberg and Dr. Roach giving a tour to Governor McMaster.



Henry McMaster Speaking at Berkeley Preparatory Academy.