



**ERSKINE**  
C O L L E G E

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Erskine College hosts over 80 charter school leaders for meeting, tour**

**DUE WEST, SC** – On Wednesday, February 16, over 80 charter school leaders, serving 25,000 elementary and high school students across South Carolina, gathered at Erskine College to participate in a Charter Institute at Erskine meeting focused on improving academic outcomes for students across the state.

While on campus, school leaders were treated to remarks Dr. Steven Adamson, the new President of Erskine College and Chairman of the Charter Institute at Erskine’s Board. Dr. Adamson shared his vision for public education and shared his excitement to lead the Institute family.

“Charter schools are unique in their ability to innovate in order to meet the needs of their individual communities,” said Dr. Adamson. “I truly believe that charter schools have an important role to play in public education not just in South Carolina, but nationwide.”

School leaders also met Erskine students while participating in a tour of the campus, led by Erskine College admissions counselors.

Other notable events of the day included a recognition of Ms. Deirdre McCullough (Belton Preparatory Academy), Mr. Mike Sinclair (Brashier Middle College Charter High School), Dr. Karen Wicks (Royal Live Oaks Academy) and Dr. Cherry Daniel (South Carolina Virtual Charter School) for their ten years of service as a charter school leader.

Mevers School of Excellence principal Brenda Coyle was also awarded the inaugural Distinguished Administrator for Exceptional Students Award in honor of “her outstanding commitment to building an exceptional special education program” within her school.

The meeting also featured opening remarks by Ms. Deirdre McCullough as well as several informational presentations by the Charter Institute at Erskine’s staff. Mr. Mike Sinclair, school leader at Brashier Middle College, and Mr. Josh Kitchens, school leader at South Carolina Connections Academy, led a breakout session for attendees. Mr. Kalan Rogers, school leader at Calhoun Falls Charter School, closed out the day with an inspiring speech.

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*Erskine College was the first higher-education institution in South Carolina to become a charter school authorizer. The Charter Institute at Erskine authorizes 26 charter schools across the state of South Carolina that serve over 25,000 students. For more information about Erskine College, visit [www.erskine.edu](http://www.erskine.edu). For more information about the Charter Institute at Erskine, visit [www.erskinecharters.org](http://www.erskinecharters.org).*



*Dr. Steven Adamson addresses the Institute's school leaders in the Bowie Arts Center.*



*School leaders from the Upstate enjoy a tour of Erskine's campus.*



*Institute Superintendent Cameron Runyan, Mevers School of Excellence School Leader Brenda Coyle, and Institute Chief of Student Services Celina Patton after Ms. Coyle was named the 2021-2022 Distinguished Administrator for Exceptional Students.*