



# MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release – January 20, 2021**

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## **Charter Institute at Erskine’s Student Services Department to launch new video series “Educate and Elevate”**

**COLUMBIA, SC** — The Charter Institute at Erskine’s Student Services department is launching a new educational video series on January 22, 2021, titled “Educate and Elevate”. The series aims to inform Special Education Coordinators across South Carolina on best practices in school special education.

The series is hosted by Celina Patton, Chief of Student Services; Laura Merrick, Director of Special Education; and Kathy Griffin, Director of Special Education. Topics covered include The Big Picture, Developing Meaningful FBAs/BIPs, and more. Sessions will also include input from Special Education Coordinators from both virtual and brick-and-mortar charter schools. Other experts in the field will be invited as guest hosts as well. Though session content was designed with charter schools in mind, coordinators from traditional districts are welcome to join.

“Charter schools historically have struggled with finding educators who possess the skillset needed to fill the position of special education coordinator in our schools,” said Chief of Student Services Celina Patton. “So we have worked to answer that need through the development of the Educate and Elevate series. This first of its kind series is designed with the intention to build the content knowledge and leadership skills special educators will need to fulfill the critical role of special education coordinators in charter schools.”

Educate and Elevate sessions will be hosted monthly on Zoom, with a recorded presentation followed by a live Q&A with Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Merrick, and Mrs. Griffin. The recorded section of the presentation will be available on the Charter Institute at Erskine’s [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for viewing anytime, anywhere.

The Charter Institute at Erskine’s Student Services team is no stranger to statewide Special Education instruction, having hosted a series of virtual Special Education Q & A sessions through South Carolina Association of School Administrators in the summer and

fall of 2020. The department will be presenting at the 2021 SCASA Innovative Ideas Institute in June, and Mrs. Merrick will be presenting both statewide and nationally to the Council for Exceptional Children in March 2021.

Those interested in participating in the series should visit <https://erskinecharters.org/educate-and-elevate/> to learn more and sign up. A commercial for the series can be viewed [here](#).

The Charter Institute at Erskine sponsors 22 charter schools across the state of South Carolina. For more information, visit [www.erskinecharters.org](http://www.erskinecharters.org).

