



2026-2027
GET BETTER FASTER INSTITUTE
 SOUTH CAROLINA FELLOWS

LEVERAGE
EST LEADERSHIP 2014
GET BETTER FASTER INSTITUTE: SOUTH CAROLINA





Alexandra (Allie) Rodis

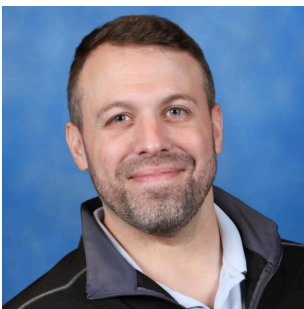
Principal

Drayton Hall Elementary School
Charleston County School District

Allie Rodis serves as the principal of Drayton Hall Elementary School in Charleston County School District, where she leads with a student-centered approach focused on academic excellence, inclusion, and community connection. Originally from Connecticut by way of New York, she eventually found her way to Charleston for the sunshine and never looked back.

Allie became a school leader because she believes teachers are doing the most important work in the world: shaping the future. She believes every child deserves access to a high-quality school in their own neighborhood, where students feel safe, supported, challenged, and excited to learn each day.

Allie holds a Bachelor's degree from Goucher College, a Master's degree in Inclusive Elementary Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from The Citadel.



Andrew (Andy) Brandt

Principal

West Ashley High School
Charleston County School District

Andy Brandt is the Principal of West Ashley High School. A dedicated educational leader with 12 years in CCSD, Brandt most recently served as Associate Principal at West Ashley High, where he established the school's MTSS team, implemented a continuous improvement framework, and collaborated with stakeholders to improve scheduling and campus safety.

Over the past five years at West Ashley, Brandt has also served as Lead Assistant Principal and Assistant Principal, overseeing departments, strengthening student support systems, and contributing to strategic and capital improvement initiatives. Previously, he served as Assistant Principal at Morningside Middle School, where he focused on grade-level leadership and community outreach.

Brandt holds degrees from Clemson University, The Citadel, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His honors include The Citadel's Charles E. Hirshey Award, Morningside Middle School Teacher of the Year, and CCSD Teacher of the Month.



Anna Dassing

Principal

Lucky Beckham High School
Charleston County School District

Anna Dassing is a veteran educational leader with more than 30 years of experience as a teacher, instructional coach, district leader, turnaround principal, and founding high school principal. She currently serves as the Founding Principal of Lucy G. Beckham High School, which she led from concept to opening, including designing the campus, building systems, and launching the school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beckham has grown to more than 1,700 students, earned consecutive "Excellent" state report card ratings, and was named one of only three high school finalists for Palmetto's Finest this year, with continued gains in achievement, culture, and climate positioning us for strong future recognition.

Her career has focused on instructional excellence, coaching, and building high-performing teams. She is a National Board-Certified educator committed to using data, feedback, and collaboration to improve teaching and learning.



Ashland Temoney

Principal

Minnie Hughes Elementary School
Charleston County School District

Ashland Temoney has 15 years of experience as a dedicated public educator in Charleston County School District, she has served as a teacher, instructional coach, and assistant principal. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Winthrop University, a Master of Arts Education in Early Childhood, and a Master of Arts Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Phoenix.

Ashland, a former Social Worker for the York County Department of Social Services, has always understood the importance of caring for the whole child, ensuring "Maslow before Bloom". She was recognized as her school's Teacher of the Year in 2015. It was an extreme honor for Ashland to return to her community where she grew up and once taught, to serve as Principal.

Recognized as Charleston County's Rookie Principal of the Year in 2023, Ashland loves the rural community she serves.



Brendan Glaze

Principal

Deer Park Middle School
Charleston County School District

Brendan Glaze brings 16 years of educational experience and a deep commitment to student achievement, positive school culture, and instructional excellence. Throughout his career, he has served in a variety of leadership roles, including Teacher, Title I Facilitator, Math Instructional Coach, High School Assistant Principal, and Principal at both the middle and high school levels. He began his educational career in Berkeley County School District, where he served for 11 years before joining Charleston County School District in 2021.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education from South Carolina State University and a Master of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision from Southern Wesleyan University.

Brendan is focused on strengthening school climate, building meaningful relationships with students and staff, and fostering academic growth for all learners while preparing them for success in high school and beyond.



Brion Rutherford

Principal

Baptist Hill High School
Charleston County School District

Brion Rutherford is an educational leader with a passion for building strong school cultures, maximizing student achievement, and developing systems that support both students and staff. As Principal of Baptist Hill High School, he is known for fostering a climate of pride, discipline, and high expectations while emphasizing relationships, instructional excellence, and student opportunity.

Prior to his work at Baptist Hill, Rutherford successfully opened and led East Edisto Middle School and previously served as an award winning principal and athletic administrator in South Carolina public schools. His leadership philosophy centers on creating schools where students and staff are empowered to work hard, finish strong, and pursue excellence both inside and outside the classroom.



Charles (Chas) Coker

Principal
Wando High School
Charleston County School District

Chas Coker was named principal of Wando High School in 2023, bringing with him more than a decade of leadership experience within Charleston County School District and a deep connection to the Wando community.

Coker began his career at Wando in 2009 as a probability and statistics teacher and coach before advancing to assistant principal in 2014. During his time in school leadership, he led professional development initiatives, coordinated curriculum innovation through the 21st Century Learning team, and served in key roles involving community outreach, athletics, scheduling, budgeting, and instructional redesign. He also represented Wando at the state level through initiatives with the South Carolina Department of Education and TransformSC.

Prior to returning to Wando as principal, Coker served as principal of Moultrie Middle School, where he strengthened school culture, expanded student supports, and led the school to notable academic success and statewide recognition.



Christal Stevens

Principal
Cross Elementary School
Berkeley County School District

Christal Stevens is an instructional leader with over 15 years in education and will serve as the Principal of Cross Elementary School starting the 2026-27 school year. She previously served as Assistant Principal at Carolyn Lewis School, where she oversaw instructional support, student services, discipline, MTSS, testing coordination, and 504 services.

Christal formally served as Administrative Assistant at Boulder Bluff Elementary School and spent more than a decade teaching at Cross Elementary School. Throughout her career, she has led professional development, supported personalized learning initiatives, and served in various district leadership roles.

Christal is also the author of two children's books: *I Don't Want to Be a Princess* and *The Writing on the Wall*, reflecting her passion for literacy and student empowerment.



Christin Rogers

Principal

Hanahan Elementary School
Berkeley County School District

Christin Rogers brings 17 years of educational leadership experience to her role as Principal of Hanahan Elementary School. Her career in Berkeley County began as a summer camp counselor and afterschool worker while attending Charleston Southern University. Following graduation, she taught CDEP and kindergarten for seven years before transitioning to instructional leadership.

Mrs. Rogers served as Assistant Principal at both College Park Elementary and Bowen's Corner Elementary for eight years, and spent three years in Greenville County Schools completing her internship and earning her Master's Degree in School Administration from Southern Wesleyan University in 2015.



Christopher (Chris) Haynes

Principal

Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science
Charleston County School District

Chris Haynes serves as the principal of Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science in Charleston. He began his career in Florence One Schools, where he taught American Government, U.S. History, and Economics. During his time in Florence, he also served scholars as both a middle school and high school assistant principal, building a strong foundation in instructional leadership and school culture.

In 2016, Haynes joined Charleston County School District as principal of Liberty Hill Academy. In 2021, he was named principal of Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science, where he has led significant growth in student achievement, school climate, and community engagement.

Haynes currently serves on the Superintendent's Principal Cabinet and was honored as the 2025–2026 Middle School Principal of the Year.



Christina Frazzano

Principal

Ladson Elementary School
Charleston County School District

Cristina Frazzano is a bilingual educational leader with more than 28 years of experience in elementary education, administration, curriculum development, and multilingual programming. Throughout her career, she has led with compassion, believing that strong relationships, high expectations, and collaborative learning environments are the foundation of student success.

Having served in a variety of leadership roles, Cristina is recognized for fostering inclusive school cultures, driving instructional excellence, and improving student achievement through data-driven practices. Her leadership has strengthened school-community partnerships and supported innovative programs that promote both academic and social-emotional growth.

Cristina earned a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision and certification in Bilingual/Bicultural Education from Montclair State University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph's University.



Elizabeth (Beth) Dillenkoffer

Principal

James Simons Montessori School
Charleston County School District

Beth Dillenkoffer is a teacher and a learner and believes this is true of all of us, no matter our profession. She did not technically begin her career as a "teacher". After graduating from Mississippi State University with a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology, Beth began working as a therapist at Charleston/Dorchester Mental Health. In 2004 she began her education career as a special education teacher of students with emotional disabilities.

Prior to joining James Simons as an assistant principal in 2018, Beth served in Charleston County School District as a special education teacher, behavior specialist and an assistant principal for fourteen years.

It is Beth's firm belief that there is no such thing as "your child" or "my child", there are only children, and ultimately we are all responsible for them. Her motto for life is, "Work hard. Be kind."



Elizabeth Kackley

Principal

North Charleston Elementary School
Charleston County School District

Elizabeth Kackley brings more than two decades of experience in Charleston County schools. Before becoming principal of North Charleston Elementary, she served the last decade as principal of Oakland Elementary, where she led all aspects of the school's instructional program and daily operations.

Elizabeth's experience also includes serving as assistant principal at Belle Hall Elementary where she helped lead school improvement efforts that contributed to a strong, successful learning environment. She also has experience as an Emotional Disabilities itinerant teacher with CCSD's Office of Student Support Services, where she developed individualized behavior plans, partnered closely with teachers and families, and provided professional development to support student success.

Ms. Kackley holds a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from The Citadel and a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from the College of Charleston.



Erika Wyatt

Principal

Westview Elementary School
Berkeley County School District

Erika Wyatt is an elementary school principal in Berkeley County School District, SC who is passionate about creating positive, engaging school cultures rooted in relationships, recognition, and high expectations. She specializes in collective leadership, empowering teachers, and building joyful school environments where students and educators feel valued, connected, and inspired to lead.

Erika has helped cultivate collaborative structures that strengthen teamwork, elevate teacher voice, and build leadership capacity. She believes meaningful change happens when people work together toward a common purpose. Erika is especially passionate about creating systems that celebrate both academic achievement and character while fostering a strong sense of belonging and school pride.



Jessica (Jess) White

Principal

Sangaree Intermediate School
Berkeley County School District

Jess White has dedicated her career to supporting student achievement and instructional excellence. She began as a classroom teacher, teaching both 2nd and 5th grade, where she developed a passion for literacy and differentiated instruction. She later served as a reading coach, helping teachers strengthen instructional practices and improve student outcomes.

Previously, Jess worked as an Assistant Principal, focusing on curriculum and instruction, teacher development, and data-driven decision making.

Jess earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and a masters degree in Elementary Administration from Charleston Southern University. She is passionate about helping schools build strong Tier 1 instruction and using student data to guide meaningful instructional practices that support growth for all learners. She also strongly believes in the importance of building meaningful partnerships between schools, families, and the community.

Jess is passionate about involving the community in the school and supporting parents by empowering them with the tools and resources needed to help their students succeed academically and personally



Dr. Kellie Gebhardt

Principal

Goose Creek Elementary School
Berkeley County School District

Dr. Kellie Gebhardt is driven by a strong conviction that education serves as the gateway to student success. This belief informs her unwavering commitment to providing the best educational experiences for all learners, particularly students from linguistically diverse backgrounds. She believes in the power of strong relationships with parents, which aligns with her dedication to The Whole Child Approach.

Her leadership philosophy — characterized by the principles “we got this” and “treat every child like you made them” — reflects her expectation that educators will demonstrate resilience, creativity, and compassion in overcoming challenges and helping each student reach their full potential.



Kevin Smith

Principal

Baptist Hill Middle School
Charleston County School District

Kevin Smith, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, has dedicated 25 years to education and instructional leadership. He earned a bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from Winthrop University, along with both a Master of Education and Educational Specialist degree from The Citadel. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Education Systems and Improvement Science at Clemson University.

Throughout his career, Kevin has led major school transformation efforts, including dividing a middle school into two single-gender academies, merging two schools, and transitioning a combined middle-high school into a standalone middle school. Among his proudest accomplishments is leading the school he once attended to earn recognition as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.

His passion for education is grounded in the belief that schools can positively change the trajectory of young people's lives through opportunity, support, and meaningful relationships.



Dr. Kimberly Murray

Principal

College Park Elementary School
Berkeley County School District

Dr. Kimberly Murray is a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and a proud product of Berkeley County School District. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the College of Charleston with dual certification in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She began her career in Berkeley County as a first-grade teacher at Devon Forest Elementary.

While teaching full time, she earned a Masters of Education degree in School Counseling in 2007 and later served as an elementary school counselor at Cane Bay Elementary. Dr. Murray also earned a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Leadership and Educational Administration.

She has served in school leadership roles at College Park Elementary, Hanahan Elementary, and as principal of Bowen's Corner Elementary, before returning home to College Park Elementary.



Megan Williams

Principal
Springfield Elementary School
Charleston County School District

Megan Williams graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1999. She earned her master's degree from The Citadel in Educational Leadership in 2009.

She began her teaching career in Charleston County Schools in 2000, teaching 5th grade at Charles Pinckney Elementary School. In 2008, she moved to Stono Park Elementary School where she taught 5th grade for 1 year and then became the lead teacher.

In 2012, she moved to Springfield Elementary School as the Assistant Principal where she served for 5 years. She then was appointed Interim Principal in 2017 and named Principal in 2018. She continues to serve as the principal at Springfield Elementary.



Melissa (Missy) LaBerge

Executive Director of School
Berkeley County School District

Melissa LaBerge is an educational leader with over 20 years of experience in K-12 education. Serving as Executive Director of Schools for Berkeley County School District, she provides strategic oversight of school operations and instructional effectiveness.

Previously, Melissa held principal and assistant principal positions at multiple elementary schools in Berkeley County School District, where she managed fiscal resources, evaluated staff performance, and improved student outcomes through data-driven decision making. A distinguished educator, she was named Berkeley County's 2022 Elementary Principal of the Year and maintains strong relationships with staff, parents, and community stakeholders.

Melissa holds a Doctor of Education in Education Systems Improvement from Clemson University, along with a Specialist and Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the Citadel and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the College of Charleston.



Nathan (Nate) Nelson

Interim Principal

Simmons-Pinckney Middle School
Charleston County School District

Nathan Nelson was named Interim Principal of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year. Nelson returns as the school's founding principal, having led major academic gains, including removal from the state's priority list and improvement from an "Unsatisfactory" to an "Average" state rating within three years.

He established a personalized learning model featuring blended learning, fine arts and STEAM expansion, project-based learning, AVID cohorts, and 1:1 technology, earning national recognition for student-centered innovation.

With more than 13 years in education, Nelson has served as a principal, assistant principal, consultant, teacher, and arts leader. A Charleston native, Army veteran, and former law enforcement officer, he previously served as Principal of Allegro Charter School of Music, where the middle school earned a "Good" rating and the high school achieved an "Excellent" rating on the South Carolina State Report Card.



Rebecca (Becky) Accolla

Principal

Carolina Park Elementary School
Charleston County School District

Becky Accolla began her career in education as a fifth-grade teacher in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She later relocated to South Carolina, where she taught fourth and fifth grade while supporting students in gifted and talented and inclusion classrooms.

In 2020, Mrs. Accolla transitioned into school leadership, serving as assistant administrator at Carolina Park Elementary before becoming assistant principal at Charles Pinckney Elementary. A two-time Teacher of the Year, she brings nearly two decades of experience to her role as principal. In 2025, she received the CCSD STAR Rookie Principal Award for her leadership and commitment to student achievement and school culture.

Mrs. Accolla earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Radford University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from The Citadel.



Steve Larson

Principal

R.B. Stall High School
Charleston County School District

Steve Larson is a seasoned leader who has served as a principal of two elementary schools, a middle school, and two high schools. He has been a director of elementary schools, director of instruction, and an assistant superintendent.

While he has been in many positions, and served as a school and district leader in many different states, he is most proud of his current role as the principal at RB Stall High School, where he plans to retire from, the year it receives an "Excellent" rating on the South Carolina state report card.



Tiffany Brown-Croker

Principal in Residence

Burke High School
Berkeley County School District

Tiffany Brown-Croker is an accomplished educational leader with nearly 20 years of experience in school administration, instructional leadership, organizational improvement, and community engagement. For the 2026–2027 school year, she will serve as Principal in Residence at Burke High School in Charleston County School District, supporting school transformation and leadership development initiatives. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Tennessee State University and both an M.Ed. and Ed.S. from The Citadel.

Throughout her career, Tiffany has successfully led schools and district programs of varying sizes, securing grant funding to expand workforce development opportunities, implementing innovative student support programs, improving organizational performance, and fostering positive school cultures. Known for her expertise in strategic planning, change management, and talent development, she believes passion fuels meaningful change and that calculated risks create new opportunities. Her leadership has consistently expanded possibilities, removed barriers, and improved outcomes for the students and communities she serves.



Tiffany Harris

Assistant Principal
Baptist Hill High School
Charleston County School District

Tiffany Harris currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Baptist Hill High School in Charleston County School District. She began her career as a high school English teacher and has since served in leadership roles across Beaufort County School District and Dorchester School District Two.

Her passion for education is rooted in building meaningful relationships, supporting student success, and creating positive school cultures where both students and staff can thrive. She believes trust, authenticity, and collaboration are the foundation of effective leadership.

Throughout her career, she has supported instructional improvement, teacher development, MTSS implementation, and school culture initiatives. She was also part of the founding leadership team at East Edisto Middle School, which earned an Excellent rating on the South Carolina School Report Card in its third year.