

## 2020 South Carolina Charter Schools Conference Keynote Speakers



### **The Honorable Molly Spearman, *State Superintendent of Education***

In a year when school operations have looked anything but normal, Superintendent Spearman will join us to give an update on the state's educational landscape in the middle of a global pandemic.

Despite this year's challenges, her vision, of preparing SC students for the next step, remains the same. She is excited to keep a positive and forward-thinking approach to South Carolina education to promote better schools and brighter futures.

Her entire career has prepared her for the role of leading the state's public education system. Growing up on a dairy farm in the rolling hills of Saluda County and graduating from the rural Hollywood High School, she learned the importance of hard work and an appreciation of the skill set needed for a successful career.

She received a B.A. in Music Education from Lander College where she served as President of the Student Government. Her studies also included a Masters of Arts in Education Supervision from George Washington University, and an Education Specialist Degree from the University of South Carolina.

For over 18 years she served as a classroom music teacher and an assistant principal. She was elected to four terms as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives representing Saluda County and portions of Lexington County (House District 39). While there she championed education and children's issues and was named Legislator of the Year by the American Legion and the Department of Health and Environmental Control. She served on the Agriculture, Education and Ways and Means Committees.

In 1998, she became the Deputy Superintendent of Education for the South Carolina Department of Education and worked with educators, legislators, and the business community to pass the Education and Economic Development Act, the National Board Certification for teachers, and other progressive education reforms. From 2004 - 2014, she served as the Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, a professional organization representing over 3800 school and district leaders. Her understanding of the importance of strong school principals who support effective teachers will be a focus of her administration.

Married to Bill Spearman for over 41 years, they are the proud parents of Mitchell, Franklin (deceased) and Katie Spearman Cornwell (Lee). She is the former President of the South Carolina American Legion Auxiliary, National Chairman of Girls State Committee and Director of Girls Nation. She has participated in Palmetto Girls State since attending as a high school senior. On Sunday mornings you will find her serving as the organist at her small country church.

Her priorities as Superintendent of Education are ensuring school safety and a system of instruction that will prepare every graduate for successful life after high school. The foundation for that instruction is effective classroom teachers and principals who facilitate personalized learning for every student, every day.

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**Nick Vujicic**, *World-Renowned Speaker, Best Selling Author, Coach, and Entrepreneur*

Nick Vujicic is an Australian-American born without arms or legs who has become a world-renowned speaker, New York Times best-selling author, coach, and entrepreneur.

Nick faced tremendous obstacles in life from, living life without limbs, to being bullied at school and fearful for his future with no purpose in sight. Nick persevered through life's challenges and discovered key principles that enabled him to find his purpose and turn obstacles into opportunities; making him one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in the world!

Nick is an anti-bullying advocate who travels the globe speaking to millions of students in partnership with Education Departments of several Governments. Nick has created an innovative Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum called "Attitude Is Altitude," wherein he teaches students to make positive changes in their lives and their communities.

Nick's passion is to inspire and equip the world to know that we all can rise above adversity and overcome every disability of the heart and mind!

# 20th Annual South Carolina Charter Schools Conference

# VIRTUAL

