

Biographies of Speakers



Karen Hawley Miles
President and Executive Director, Education
Resource Strategies, Inc.

Dr. Miles is the President and Executive Director of Education Resource Strategies, Inc. She has worked intensively with school systems nationwide to analyze and improve their funding systems, school-level resource use, and human capital and professional development systems. This work has two major components: partnering with system leaders to deeply analyze their resource use and then working side-by-side with them to change the resource strategies in ways that improve school performance. ERS focuses especially on helping systems to redesign their funding systems; create new schools that organize talent, time, and technology to maximize learning; restructure teaching to encourage individual and team effectiveness and develop powerful school turnaround strategies.

Dr. Miles has taught school leaders at Harvard University, in school districts, and for New Leaders for New Schools. She has authored numerous articles and co-authored *The Strategic School: Making the Most of People, Time and Money* with Stephen Frank. She serves as a Senior Advisor to the Aspen Institute Education and Society Program, and she served as a Commissioner on the Equity and Excellence Commission for the U.S. Department of Education.

Before her work at ERS, she worked at Bain & Company as a strategy and management consultant for hospitals and corporations. She has a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Yale University and a Doctorate in Education from Harvard University, specializing in school organization, change, and finance.

Karen enjoys spending time with her twin boys and husband, reading a book a week, running, biking, and being outdoors anywhere but especially in the mountains.



Adam Levinson
Chief Financial Officer, NC Department of Public Instruction

Levinson is the Chief Financial Officer at the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the agency responsible for managing the \$10 billion in state and federal funds appropriated for public education statewide. Mr. Levinson has been a member of the Department's senior leadership team since 2007, serving as Chief of Staff, Director of the Race to the Top program, Chief Performance Officer and Interim Director of the Office of Charter Schools, and Director of Policy and Strategic Planning.

Before his work at DPI, Mr. Levinson served as a fiscal analyst at the NC General Assembly for seven years, including three as lead analyst for the Education Team. Early in his career, Mr. Levinson provided early childhood intervention and family support services in Orange, Person, and Chatham counties for four years.

Mr. Levinson holds a bachelor's degree in Government and Psychology from Cornell University, a master's degree in Early Intervention & Family Support from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in Public Affairs & Urban and Regional Planning from Princeton University.



Keith Poston
President and Executive Director, Public School Forum of North Carolina

Keith has more than 25 years of public relations, strategic philanthropy and corporate communications experience. His diverse background includes corporate, agency, political and non-profit organizations. Keith has served as President and Executive Director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina since January 2014 and hosts the organization's weekly television show "Education Matters" that airs on WRAL-TV in Central/Eastern NC and statewide on UNC-TV's NC Channel.

Before joining the Public School Forum, Poston served as the Senior Director of Community Investment for Time Warner Cable where he led strategic philanthropy and community engagement for the company's East Coast operations. Before working with Time Warner Cable, Keith was Managing Director of Corporate Communications at AGL Resources, Director of Public Relations and Employee Communications for Progress Energy (now Duke

Energy), and Vice President/Account Supervisor at Ketchum Public Relations in Washington, D.C.

Keith currently serves as President of the Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences Board of Directors. He also serves on the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center Advisory Board and the Kenan Fellows Program Board of Advisors. Keith is a Leadership North Carolina graduate and received the "40 under 40" Leadership Award in 2004 from the Triangle Business Journal. Keith received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Dr. Anthony D. Jackson
Superintendent, Vance County Schools

Anthony D. Jackson, Ed.D, is Superintendent of the Vance County School System in Henderson, NC. Before coming to Vance County Schools, Dr. Jackson served for four years as the Superintendent for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools and three years as Division Superintendent of the Henry County Public School System located in Collinsville, Virginia.

Dr. Jackson's career in public education spans 28-years and began as a teacher's assistant and has matriculated through the public school ranks as a music teacher, assistant principal, principal, and various central office administrative posts in several Virginia and North Carolina districts. Before returning to North Carolina, Dr. Jackson worked as the principal and Chief Administrative Officer of the Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter School (ATA), a highly successful public charter school in Washington, DC. He also served as a Regional Vice President for Curriculum and Instruction with a charter school management company. In 2013-2014, Dr. Jackson was named the N. C. Central Regional Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Jackson has a Bachelor of Science degree in music education from East Carolina University, a master's degree in educational leadership from N. C. Central University and a doctorate in education from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He serves on the boards of the local Economic Development Commission and the Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce. Jackson also holds membership in many professional and civic organizations including Rotary International and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Jackson has two adult children and one grandchild. He enjoys singing, playing the piano, traveling and spending time with his family.



Dr. Tim Markley
Superintendent, New Hanover County Schools

Great teachers shaped Dr. Tim Markley's educational career. His journey began in the 82nd Airborne and from there, he explored the field of education. From teacher to principal to superintendent, he has continued to serve in progressively larger school districts that include the White Mountains Regional School District in New Hampshire, Catawba County, North Carolina and currently, New Hanover County Schools. With each opportunity, Dr. Markley has worked to improve the graduation rate, increase student performance and recruit highly-skilled employees. He has written several articles, presented at numerous education conferences and writes a monthly blog. Teach.com selected Dr. Markley's blog as a top educational blog to read. He has been recognized with numerous awards to include Administrator of the Year, and 2015 North Carolina Southeast Regional Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Markley also advocates regularly for public education by meeting with state and local elected officials and community leaders to discuss educational needs and future goals. A current project includes creating and establishing the first regional Career-Technical Education High School with Cape Fear Community College and Pender County Schools, which opened in August 2017 on the North Campus of CFCC. Also, through his direct leadership, NHCS passed the district's largest school bond by the largest margin in 2014.



Dr. Janet Mason
Superintendent, Rutherford County Schools

Since 2010, Dr. Janet Harmon Mason has served as the superintendent of Rutherford County Schools. Under her leadership, the district has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Education Program and a North Carolina Innovator in Digital Learning. Dr. Mason was awarded the Friday Medal for Educational Innovation in 2017 and was selected as the 2018 A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Mason serves on the executive board of the North Carolina Association of School Superintendents, the executive committee of the American Association of School Administrators, and the boards of the Rutherford

County Schools Education Foundation and the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. She is a trustee of the McNair Educational Foundation and an active McNair Mentor for 15 middle and high school students.

Dr. Mason was a high school math teacher for 16 years, and served as an assistant principal, a high school principal, secondary curriculum director, and assistant superintendent, all in the Rutherford County Schools. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University, Converse College, and earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Western Carolina University in 2010.

She and her husband, Rick Mason, are the proud parents of Meredith Mason, a 2017 Park Scholar and graduate of North Carolina State University and 3rd grade teacher in Wake County.