



Michael Johnson

Higher Education Representative

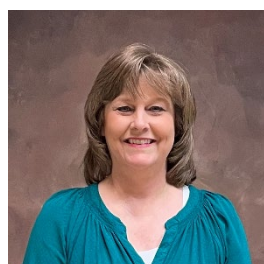
Michael Johnson joined the Columbia International University faculty in 2022 as the College of Education dean. From 2016–2022 he served as Alaska’s Commissioner of Education.



Karen Jenkins

Business Representative

Karen Jenkins is the current Board Chair of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce as well as an Executive Committee member on the board of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. She is also the President and CEO of KRJ Consulting.



Kim Penland

School Representative

Kim Penland is the principal of Waterloo Elementary School and was the previous principal of Gray Court-Owings School, both in Laurens County School District 55.



Tammie Shore

State Board of Education Member

Tammie Shore is the Eleventh Judicial Circuit representative to the South Carolina State Board of Education. She retired in 2021 after 31 years in education where she served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal.



Eric Freeman

Civic Representative

Bishop Eric Freeman is a Christian cleric and episcopal servant in the Christian Covenant Fellowship of Ministries. He is the pastor and founder of The Meeting Place Church of Greater Columbia.



Patti Tate

Former State Teacher of the Year

Patti Tate, a classroom teacher for 33 years, was the 2012 South Carolina State Teacher of the Year. She has served on the Education Oversight Committee as the Senate Education Committee Chairman’s education appointee since 2013.



Jacks Griffith

Pre-Service Educator

Jacks Griffith is a senior at the University of South Carolina, majoring in Elementary Education. She is currently student teaching at Bradley Elementary and after graduation, she will be a 2nd grade teacher at Alexander Elementary School in Greenville, SC.