

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
School Principals

FROM: Dwayne H. Gatson, Ed.D.
Director, Student and Community Engagement

DATE: February 11, 2025

RE: Hope Tour Launch

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces the launch of the *Hope Tour*, first stop Columbia, SC. The purpose of the tour is to introduce additional elements to existing curriculum that will foster meaningful dialogue and inspire action to unite schools, classrooms, and communities. Supplements to existing curriculum will include reflections and testimonies of forgiveness and hope from family members of the Emanuel Nine whose legacies are memorialized in the current edition of the *African American History Calendar* (AAHC) and free *Share the Dream* curriculum based on the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. (a resource from *Good of All*, which is a foundation that promotes human dignity).

The event will introduce both resources during an interview session led by Superintendent Ellen Weaver. Participants for the interview are Reverend Anthony Thompson (husband of the late Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson who we tragically lost during the Mother Emanuel shootings), Dr. Matthew Daniels (founder of the MLK Hope initiative), and our host for the evening, Bishop Eric Freeman. Attendance by district and school leaders, students, and family members is highly encouraged. For those of you unable to attend due to distance or other challenges, please join via SCDE live stream. Other details follow:

- Location: The Meeting Place Church, 201 Columbia Mall Blvd, #201, Columbia, SC
- Date: February 24, 2025
- Time: 5:30 – 7:00pm

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Dwayne Gatson at dgatson@ed.sc.gov.