

Instilling hope,
inspiring greatness.



DR. C.J. HUFF
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“There is no worse feeling in the world—I had 7,747 kids that I was responsible for, and I could only account for my three children.”



FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

RESTORING HOPE IN A COMMUNITY

May 22, 2011—it was graduation day for over 400 seniors at Joplin High School. A day of great celebration. But Mother Nature had other plans. At 5:41pm a deadly EF-5 tornado touched down on the west side of Joplin destroying everything in its path. In times of crisis, real leaders step up.

Meet Dr. C.J. Huff.

After the most devastating tornado in U.S. history destroyed a third of Joplin, Missouri, claiming 161 lives, C.J., restored hope.

C.J. embodies the resilience needed to overcome adversity, leading his community from tragedy to triumph. He shares his remarkable story of leadership, relationships, and resiliency that kept children at the center of the recovery effort.

“After all, a lot of you could’ve spent your senior year scattered throughout different schools, far from home. But Dr. Huff asked everyone to pitch in so that school started on time, right here in Joplin. He understood the power of this community, and the power of place,” explained President Obama to the Class of 2012.



A LEADER'S BIO

Nothing can substitute experience.

C.J.'s wide range of experience as a classroom teacher, building principal, superintendent and a family farmer has made him able to connect, both personally and professionally, with the community to educate and shape the next generation of leaders.

It's this experience that prepared C.J. to lead his district of 1,100 employees and 7,700 students through the recovery effort of the Joplin tornado—staying calm in the midst of crisis, yet maintaining a focus on people, relationships, and a collaborative vision of a brighter future for the community.

A native of McCune, Kansas, C.J. farmed alongside his grandpa and dad until he became a teacher in 1996. C.J. earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary

Education from Pittsburg State University. He received his Masters and Specialist degrees in Education from Missouri State University. Most recently, he earned his Doctorate in Education with a focus in Educational Leadership from the University of Arkansas in 2003.

In June 2015, he retired as superintendent of Joplin Schools to utilize his unique experiences and expertise, broadly influencing state and national education policy as a consultant and public speaker.

Sincere, passionate and down-to-earth, C.J. offers clear leadership strategies based on his real-world experiences in his presentations.

C.J. is the proud father of three children and has been married to his best friend, Jennifer, for 19 years.

KEYNOTES

C.J. understands how teamwork, leadership and a focus on the future can help overcome any challenge. In his presentation, **"Stronger Together,"** he shares his remarkable story of leadership, relationships, and resiliency that kept children at the center of the recovery effort after the Joplin Tornado. Claiming 161 lives and inflicting damages exceeding \$3 billion, it's recognized as the most costly tornado in U.S. history. In his speech **"Education for the 21st Century,"** he notes that the education system must prepare the leaders of tomorrow through technology and communication to face future challenges.

PAST SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

NORTH CAROLINA
CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

AUGUST 2016

NATIONAL SCHOOL
SAFETY CONFERENCE

JULY 2016

NATIONAL EDUCATION
OFFICE PROFESSIONALS
CONVERENCE

JULY 2016

IOWA SOCIETY OF
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OCTOBER 2015

VIRGINIA TECH BUILDING
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR
SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 2013

TEDX FRONT RANGE

MAY 2013

TORONTO CONFERENCE
STRATEGY INSTITUTE

OCTOBER 2012

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
EDUCATIONAL PLANNERS

OCTOBER 2012

NATIONAL SCHOOL
PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

JULY 2012



Create the vision. Communicate the message. Chart the course.

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C.J. is also available for seminars, workshops and Q&A sessions on the following topics:

- Public Education Systems
- 21st Century Education Strategies
- School Design and Facilities Planning
- Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Framework for Community Engagement
- Political Lobbying and Relationships
- Public Speaking and Group Facilitation

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