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Harold Border, Ed.D.

Chief of Strategy Officer

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Dr. Harold Border currently serves as the Chief Strategy Officer for Orange County Public Schools. In this role he is responsible for aligning district strategic initiatives and partnerships across all divisions to the OCPS 2025 Strategic Plan.

Previously, Dr. Border served as the OCPS Chief of High Schools from 2016-2022. In this role, he was responsible for student success in the 22 traditional high schools that are comprised of approximately 60,000 students and 4,200 staff members. During this time the district achieved numerous unprecedented success including graduation rates and access to and performance in rigorous coursework. Dr. Border is a veteran of the United States Navy where he served in Orlando, FL and Charleston, SC. After concluding his military service, Harold returned to Orlando to attend the University of Central Florida. Harold is a firm believer that public education is a systemic lever that allows a committed individual to change their socio-economic trajectory. This fact, that demography does not mean destiny, mirrors his life story from impoverished rural roots in Pennsylvania. His mother always emphasized the importance of education as the key to upward social mobility. This first-hand knowledge in the power of working hard when you have access to a high-quality education drove Harold to pursue his calling of being an educator. For over 26 years in OCPS, Harold has remained committed to ensuring all students have access to their goals.

After completing his degree in Elementary Education in 1997, Harold began teaching 6th grade Science and coaching basketball at Westridge Middle School. While teaching, he continued his education by completing his M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from UCF in 1999 and his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from UCF in 2004. During these years, Harold served as an Administrative Dean and Assistant Principal at the middle and high school level.

Harold became Principal of Hunter's Creek Middle School in 2005. During his tenure, HCMS earned 100% Adequate Yearly Progress across all data subgroups as the first middle school to accomplish such results in OCPS. After serving in this role for 3 years, he was tapped by the Superintendent to become the Principal of Freedom High School in 2008. At this time, Freedom was under state intervention due to multiple 'D' grades. With the work of a committed staff, student achievement at Freedom exponentially improved vaulting the school to 'A' status and the school continues to be a flagship site in OCPS. Harold also worked to ensure open access and equity to rigorous coursework for students. The number of students participating in such courses at Freedom increased over 300% during the 5 years while their performance also improved resulting in this success being covered by the New York Times.

Harold was selected to become an Executive Area Director for the newly formed School Transformation Office in 2013. In this role, he worked with 4 schools deemed struggling by state standards to build leadership capacity and improve student outcomes. The following year, he was selected to become Area

Superintendent for the Southwest Learning Community. In this role, Harold worked alongside 35 Principals and opened 2 new Elementary Schools. In June 2016, he was selected to become the Chief of High Schools. Under his leadership, OCPS registered its highest traditional high school graduation rate to date from this past school year at 98.5%. Dr. Border is also currently engaged with innovative work across the high schools that includes redesigning program to align with the high demand and high wage careers across central Florida, expansion of the alternative high school start times increase choice, and bolstering partnerships that include increased accessibility to Dual Enrollment programs for our students.

Harold has served on several boards including Junior Achievement of Central Florida, the Central Florida Boy Scouts Council as the Vice President for Learning for Life, and the Tangelo Park Program while overseeing Tangelo Park Elementary. Harold also currently serves on the Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children Board and on several district teams/committees including the Superintendent's Cabinet, the Executive Steering Committee, the IT Governance Committee, and the Digital Asset Management Committee. Harold was also one of 15 senior executive leaders from across the nation selected to attend the inaugural cohort of the Fellowship for Public Education at the Yale School of Management and was recently recognized by the Aspen Society for his work as a champion for school climate as well as the American Heart Association for his work relative CRP and ECGs amongst high school students.

Harold's wife Janice has been an Exceptional Education teacher in OCPS for the past 23 years currently serving as an Elementary School Staffing Specialist. Harold and Janice are the proud parents of three children: Kristina (21), Anneliz (16), and Mason (7), all of whom either graduated from or will graduate from Orange County Public Schools.