

The Honorable Richard W. Riley is the former U.S. secretary of education (1993–2001) and former governor of South Carolina (1979–1987). Currently a senior partner in the South Carolina law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P, with offices also in North Carolina, Georgia and Washington, D.C., he counsels clients and works with partners to develop strategy on complex business, governance, financial and legal matters for local, national and international clients. Secretary Riley earned his bachelor’s degree, cum laude, in political science from Furman in 1954 and received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1959. He is the recipient of numerous education and other public service awards, as well as honorary degrees from universities and colleges in the United States and abroad.

Jo Anne Anderson serves as executive director of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee. The Committee bears responsibilities for the development and ongoing improvement of South Carolina’s educational accountability system. The Committee also is responsible for recommending changes that enable the continuous improvement of South Carolina’s educational system. Anderson earned a B.A. and M.A. from George Peabody College and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Florida State University. She has worked in classrooms, in district administration and with policy-making bodies including the South Carolina Senate. She has consulted on projects with the Education Commission of the States, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, and other policy-making organizations. Anderson is the author of numerous publications, including the UNESCO guide on school accountability. She has continuing research interests in resiliency and organizational effectiveness.

Harvey Choplin was born and raised in Pageland, South Carolina. He has a B.S. in mathematics from Claflin College, an M.A. in education from Furman University, and a masters plus 30 from Furman University and Clemson University. Until his retirement in 2002, he was active at Traveler’s Rest High School where he was a high school mathematics teacher, head coach for the boys basketball team, athletic director, assistant principal, and eventually the head principal. He is also very involved in the South Carolina community. He is part of the Foothills Rotary Organization, the North Greenville Hospital Advisory Council, the Travelers Rest City Council, the Bridges to a Brighter Future Program, and he serves as a board member for the Camp Opportunity Program for abused children.

Lorraine DeJong has been on the faculty at Furman since 1995. She is an associate professor of education and the coordinator of Furman’s nationally recognized Early Childhood Program. She holds a B.A. and M.A.T. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in child development from Florida State. Presently she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in human development, service learning, and early childhood education. Before coming to Furman, she was a public school teacher in Florida where, for over 15 years, she taught children in grades K-12 from “at risk” situations. One of her most memorable teaching positions was serving as director of an early childhood program that served infant children born to teenage parents in Tallahassee, Florida. DeJong has written many articles including two in the journal of Young Children that relate specifically to the care and education of young children born to teenage parents. Lorraine currently serves on the board of Greenville County First Steps and is a member of the Professional Development Panel for NAEYC.

Scott Henderson was born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida. He has a B.A. in history and international affairs from Florida State University; an M.A. in history from the Johns Hopkins University; teacher certification in secondary social studies from the University of Virginia; and a Ph.D. in history from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Scott taught history in Chesapeake, Virginia (1986–1989) and was an instructor of English and Western culture at Yamagata Women’s Junior College in Yamagata, Japan (1989-1990). He is currently an associate professor in Furman’s Education Department and the director of National and International Scholarships. His published scholarship includes books and articles on American education and social policy.

Molly Mitchell Spearman currently serves as executive director, South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA). She represented House District 39 as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1993 to 1999. She later served as deputy superintendent for governmental affairs at the South Carolina State Department of Education. A former public school music teacher and assistant principal, she earned a B.A. from Lander University, and an M.A. from George Washington University. She has also completed postgraduate work in education administration at the University of South Carolina.