



Digital Promise Announces Appointment of Dr. Baron R. Davis as Senior Advisor

Former Superintendent to Support Key Organizational Priorities for the League of Innovative Schools, the Center for Inclusive Innovation, and the Office of the President

March 8, 2023 | Washington, D.C. – Global education nonprofit [Digital Promise](#) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Baron R. Davis as senior advisor to the organization, effective March 1, 2023. As the former superintendent of Richland School District Two in Columbia, SC, where he served as the first Black superintendent in the district’s 90-plus-years history, Dr. Davis is a trailblazer for public education with over two decades of experience.

"I am thrilled to join Digital Promise as senior advisor and to partner together in their mission to expand opportunities for all learners," Dr. Davis said. "As someone who is deeply committed to equity, inclusion, and innovation in education, I look forward to supporting key organizational priorities and working toward creating powerful learning experiences that will not only enrich the lives of learners, but also pave the way for economic mobility and well-being."

"As senior advisor, Dr. Davis will support Digital Promise in several capacities. He will spearhead strategic priorities for our League of Innovative Schools and other educator networks, the continued growth of our Center for Inclusive Innovation, and several new, exciting initiatives coming from the Office of the President," said Jean-Claude Brizard, president and CEO of Digital Promise. "I am extremely excited to have his expertise at our table."

Prior to joining Digital Promise, Dr. Davis was a nationally-recognized member of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, having been selected from a competitive pool of applicants based on the district’s leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for learning, and commitment to equity and collaboration. In 2021, he was selected by his peers to serve on the League’s advisory committee. Notably, as superintendent Dr. Davis prioritized increasing teacher diversity and developing the next generation of education leaders of color by launching the Premier 100 initiative, which recruits, retains, and

elevates male teachers of color in Richland Two classrooms. He also serves on the advisory board of the Learner Variability Project.

“Dr. Davis’ leadership comes at a critical time for Digital Promise—and in particular, for the League of Innovative Schools—as we reground our vision for how we serve historically and systemically excluded learners,” said Chaula Gupta, vice president and chief program officer at Digital Promise. “Dr. Davis has been lending his thoughtful perspective as a member of the League’s advisory committee, and we are thrilled to have his voice reflected in strategies across the organization.”

Dr. Davis has broad and extensive experience within the K-12 education landscape, having served as a successful school leader in rural, urban, and suburban school systems where his schools were recognized for closing learning gaps, increasing graduation rates, and increasing Advanced Placement participation rates.

Dr. Davis’ support of education and his community spans across his educational career. He is a founding member of the AVID Center Superintendent’s Collaborative, whose mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. He has served as a principal mentor and coach for induction principals participating in the South Carolina Department of Education’s Office of School Leadership Principal Induction Program.

Since 2018, he has been named the 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia Educational Leader of the Year, earned the Francis Marion University Professional Industry Award for Education and Arts as well as the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Cathy Novinger Trailblazer Award. AASA, The Superintendents’ Association, awarded him the Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award; Education Week named him a Leader to Learn From for Leadership in Equity; and K-12 Dive placed him on their Superintendent to Watch list. K-12 Dive also named Richland Two the 2021 School District of the Year. He has received the Bob Grossman Leadership in School Communications Award from the National School Public Relations Association for implementing communications strategies to better serve parents, students, community partners and employees.

Dr. Davis is a Columbia native, where he currently resides with his wife, Pamela, and his three daughters.

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About Digital Promise

Digital Promise is a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner. We work with educators, researchers, technology leaders, and communities to design, investigate, and scale innovations that support learners, especially those who've been historically and systematically excluded. Our vision is that every person engages in powerful learning experiences that lead to a life of well-being, fulfillment, and economic mobility. For more information, visit the [Digital Promise website](#) and follow [@DigitalPromise](#) for updates.