Instilling hope, inspiring greatness.

huff
INSIGHT • PASSION • RESILIENCE

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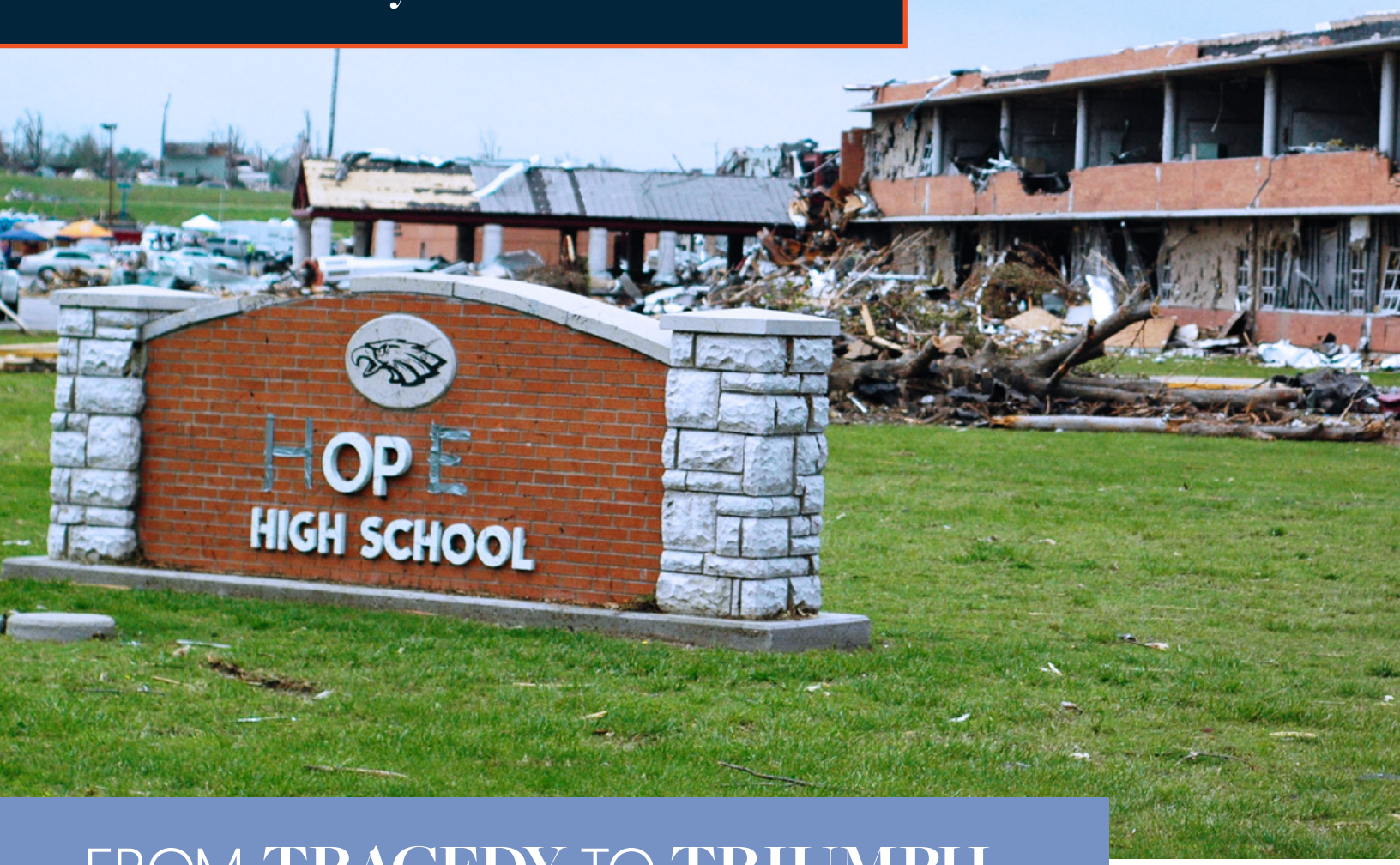
> “There is no worse feeling in the world—I had 7,747 kids that I was responsible for, and I could only account for my three children.”



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.

PAST SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE

NATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE PROFESSIONALS CONVERENCE

IOWA SOCIETY OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

VIRGINIA TECH BUILDING EMERGENCY COORDINATOR SYMPOSIUM

TEDX FRONT RANGE

TORONTO CONFERENCE STRATEGY INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EDUCATIONAL PLANNERS

NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

KEYNOTES

With expertise in the areas of leadership, community engagement, education programming, strategic planning or designing 21st century learning environments, Dr. C.J. Huff can work with you and your team to develop and implement strategies to accomplish your organizational goals.

Legacy Leadership - The Intersection of Vision and Action

(1 hr. Keynote - Audience: School Leaders)*

The current challenge for school leaders is providing balanced leadership in this era of limited resources and increased accountability for results. Common leadership practices tend to focus on two dimensions of leadership - VISION and ACTION. In this keynote Dr. Huff focuses on a third dimension world-class leaders understand - LEGACY. Beyond test scores and the many distractions in our daily work as school leaders, our legacy will be defined by the actions we take achieve that vision for a brighter future for our children. After all, vision is about what lies ahead...legacy is what we leave behind as we move towards that vision.

**This keynote can be turned into a 3-hour interactive seminar. In addition to the points noted in the keynote, Dr. Huff will provide hands on activities and facilitate dialogue leading to the development of a legacy statement. No additional cost.*

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.

Community Engagement 2.0 - A Whole Community Approach to Educating Our Children

(1 hr. Keynote - Audience: School leaders, community members, educators, parents)**

The reality is, the education of our youth is now the responsibility of the whole community. Schools can no longer go it alone. It's time to download and install Community Engagement 2.0. As a nationally recognized expert on school/community engagement, Dr. Huff currently works with 57 communities in 8 states, serving over 250,000 children. In this keynote, he will share an inspirational message of hope and provide proven strategies to engage your school community's "time, talent and treasure" to:

1. Create integrated systems of community support to meet any child's needs within 24 hours
2. Grow circles of influence to build community leadership and resource capacity
3. Give kids a chance to give back to their community in an intentional effort to grow a generation of children who clearly understand the ideal of service above self.

Our noble purpose as educators is not about test scores and should not be impacted by the politics of our time. Our noble purpose begins with good people coming together, finding common ground in our children, and working together to create new opportunities for children today that didn't exist yesterday.

***This keynote can also be turned into a 3 hour interactive seminar to take school leaders into deeper conversations and opportunities for school/community partnerships.*

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

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TOPICS OF EXPERTISE:

- Community Engagement 2.0 - A Whole Community Approach to Educating Our Children
- Legacy Leadership - The Intersection of Vision and Action
- 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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