



Dr. C.J. Huff served as the superintendent of Joplin Schools from July, 2008 through June, 2015. He is the proud father of three children and has been married to his best friend, Jennifer, for 18 years.

A native of McCune, Kansas, Huff earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Pittsburg State University, his Master and Specialist 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.

His wide range of experiences as a classroom teacher, building principal, superintendent and a family farmer prepared him to lead his district of 1,100 employees and 7,700 students through the recovery effort that has followed the devastating Sunday, May 22, 2011 tornado that ripped through the heart of Joplin. Graduation ceremonies for Joplin's Class of 2011 had just concluded at Missouri Southern State University when the tornado struck around 5:41 p.m. destroying or damaging 10 of the 19 buildings in Huff's district including the high school and leaving over half of his students without a school to return to on Monday, May 23. The Joplin Schools family suffered loss more precious than the buildings though as they lost a staff member and seven students to the storm.

Huff's declaration that "We will start school on time" is credited with being a key factor that drew the community of Joplin together just days after the tornado and provided a positive light for the country to rally around in the midst of such tragedy and destruction. To find and create learning space for 4,200 kids—54 percent of the district—in 12 weeks was a daunting task. However, on August 17, 2011 what many determined was an "imposs...

CJ Huff

Speech Topics

- Leadership
- Education
- Crisis Management



Testimonials

CJ Huff spoke as a closing keynote at our Human Resources annual state conference. His presentation was amazing. His presentation gets you thinking about ways that businesses should be interacting with schools now to create a strong workforce in the future. His approach and the way he rallied the community back together after something so big is inspirational. If we all had a chance to work with someone like CJ we would be so lucky.

- Human Resources Program Coordinator FBL Financial Group, Inc. Farm Bureau Financial Services.

Dr. CJ Huff's message provided Missouri School Counselors just what was needed to head back into the trenches of working with students. His awe-inspiring message was deemed one of the best keynotes ever!. Dr. Huff is an authentic speaker with such a caring approach that brings a powerful presentation leaving the audience refocused, motivated and inspired to take action. It is often a challenge to maintain an attentive audience on the final day of a conference, but Dr. Huff held the audience captive with his message of what really matters....the students. Dr. Huff, thank you for your transparent delivery of sharing your heart, passion and challenge to change our communities.... You ARE a "GameChanger!"

