#SC2Finland

A Field Study of Public Education in Finland

WHO A delegation of 23 public education stakeholders including educators, policymakers, community and business leaders, journalists and foundations.

WHAT A seven-day field study of public education in Finland organized by Public Education Partners, Furman University’s Department of Education, and the Riley Institute at Furman, documented by SCETV. The South Carolina delegation will:

- observe in primary and secondary schools, including special education settings and inclusive preparatory education intended to support Finland’s growing number of immigrants and foreign language speakers;
- visit examples of Finland’s post-secondary school options, including one focused on traditional academics and one of the most modern vocational institutes in Finland;
- meet with the National Board of Education and with university faculty responsible for teacher preparation;
- tour a new service center that helps students and other residents access everyday services that support academic success, e.g., a maternity and child health clinic, mental health and substance abuse services, a library, and a meeting place for arts and culture;
- attend workshops on phenomenon and inquiry-based learning and on leadership that enables and supports innovation in school settings;
- meet with former Prime Minister of Finland Alexander Stubb; and
- visit local businesses for discussions on the link between schooling and the economy.

WHEN October 14 – 21, 2018

WHERE Finland, including the cities of Helsinki and Oulu.

WHY

- To create knowledge, opportunity and connections among a group of leaders who can help support continued education innovation in the Upstate and South Carolina.
- The key to healthy and prosperous communities is strong public schools with highly qualified and empowered teachers. International comparisons allow us to explore different approaches to curriculum, teaching, teacher preparation and student supports that may improve achievement and economic competitiveness.
- While a small country with little poverty, the Finnish approach could offer some useful examples for states such as South Carolina with a similarly sized, though demographically different, population. And, vice versa. South Carolina’s growing success in project-based learning, particularly in rural communities, will be of interest to Finnish educators as they transition to similar methods of teaching.