

Dr. Rebecca Darden-Perry, Ph.D.



Founding Executive Director & School Leader Board Director (Non-Voting Member)

Dr. Rebecca Darden-Perry is the Founder and Founding Executive Director of Darden-Perry Academy and serves as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. She is an experienced educational leader with more than two decades of service in private schools, state-operated schools, and North Carolina public schools, dedicating her career to expanding educational opportunities for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students alike.

Dr. Darden-Perry earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education, a Graduate Certificate in Deaf-Blindness, a Master of Science in Special Education (Deaf and Hard of Hearing K-12), and a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies and Human Development (Birth-Kindergarten). Throughout her career, she has served as a teacher, administrator, instructional leader, and educational consultant, holding leadership positions in early childhood education, private schools, state-operated schools, and public school systems.

Driven by her passion for educational equity, Dr. Darden-Perry founded Darden-Perry School, an educational resource platform dedicated to supporting students, families, and educators. That vision ultimately grew into Darden-Perry Academy, a proposed public charter school designed to transform how deaf and hearing students learn together.

Her doctoral dissertation focused on multimodal communication and social skills development, reinforcing her belief that students achieve the greatest success when communication barriers are removed and inclusive learning environments are intentionally designed. She believes that neither traditional schools for the deaf nor traditional hearing schools fully address the needs of all learners. Darden-Perry Academy was created to bridge that gap by providing a dual-language educational environment where American Sign Language and English are equally valued.

As Founding Executive Director, Dr. Darden-Perry provides executive leadership for charter implementation, organizational development, strategic planning, educational programming, community partnerships, and long-term sustainability. Working collaboratively with the Board of Directors, she is leading the development of North Carolina's first proposed K-12 dual-language English-ASL charter school.

Dr. Darden-Perry believes Darden-Perry Academy is only the beginning. Her vision is to establish a model of excellence that can be replicated across North Carolina and throughout the United States, ensuring that future generations of deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students have access to an innovative, inclusive education that prepares them to succeed in an interconnected world.