Meet the Coalition's Executive Director

Lindalyn Kakadelis is the executive director of the North Carolina Coalition for Charter Schools. She has led the Coalition's work and advocacy efforts since January 2020. A former teacher, school board member, and longtime leader in the state's charter movement, Lindalyn brings many years of public education experience to her work as a charter advocate.

Prior to serving as the Coalition's executive director, Lindalyn chaired the organization's Board of Directors and served on the state's Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB). Appointed to CSAB in 2018 by Speaker Tim Moore, she chaired CSAB's Performance Committee.

Lindalyn's earlier professional experience included work as the director of education outreach for the John Locke Foundation. In addition, she led the North Carolina Education Alliance, a resource network providing North Carolinians with comprehensive K-12 data, and served as the director of Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF)-Charlotte.

Her professional background includes significant expertise in public education governance, policy, and leadership. Elected to two terms on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (CMS), Lindalyn chaired the CMS Policy Committee, worked on the Legislative and Curriculum Committees, and helped implement an urban public school choice plan benefiting more than 100,000 students.

A founding board member of Queen's Grant Charter School in Charlotte, Lindalyn also has governance experience at the individual charter school level. In addition, she developed hands-on experience in the classroom, beginning her career as an elementary school teacher.

Lindalyn is a regular guest on talk radio programs and often speaks at policy forums and gatherings. As a charter advocate, she has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and in numerous other publications. Her op-eds have appeared in the *Charlotte Observer*, the *News & Observer*, *EdNC*, and more.

If you would like to invite Lindalyn to speak at your event, please connect with her at 704.231.9767 or lkakadelis@nc.chartercoalition.org.

Lindalyn's favorite charter moment, in her own words:

"My favorite charter moment was hearing how Arapahoe Charter School began with the community's deep commitment 25 years ago—and then seeing how far the school has come today. I was so impacted by hearing the testimony of Tim Taylor, who was a student at Arapahoe back in 1997, and his mom, Theresa, who helped launch the school and even drove the charter

application to Raleigh! I am so proud to be part of this movement, which has changed K-12 education in North Carolina forever. This is a movement that puts the needs of students and families first."