



Crossroads Charter Schools
Communications Department
1011 Central Street
Kansas City, MO 64105
<https://crossroadsschoolskc.org/>

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Media Contact:

Darin Smith, Manager of Communication & Marketing | 816.221.3191 x322
email: dsmith3@crossroadsschoolskc.org

***Crossroads Superintendent Announces Retirement, Launches
Yearlong Transition Rooted in Community and Continuity***

KANSAS CITY, MO, May 16, 2025 – **Tysie McDowell**, co-founder and current Superintendent of Crossroads Charter Schools, has announced that she will retire at the end of the 2025–2026 school year. A driving force behind the organization’s transformative growth, McDowell has spent 14 years shaping Crossroads into one of Kansas City’s most innovative public charter school networks.

The Crossroads School Board was formally notified in April, and McDowell shared the news with staff this week in heartfelt conversations with all three campuses.

“I want to be clear—this decision is based solely on personal health,” McDowell said. “I’m not stepping away out of frustration or disappointment. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. I’ve never been prouder of where Crossroads is today or more confident in the direction we’re heading. But sometimes, life calls us to make space for healing, and I know this is the right moment to do that.”

McDowell’s leadership began in 2011 with a vision that schools should be rooted in belonging, fueled by creativity, and grounded in real-world learning. What began as a single school has since evolved into a thriving PreK–12 network spanning three primary campuses—Central Street Academy (K–6), Quality Hill Academy (K–5), and Crossroads Preparatory Academy (7–12)—as well as community partnerships for pre-kindergarten students. Crossroads serves hundreds of families across Kansas City and has achieved financial stability, steady academic growth, and a culture of joy that centers students and community.

“Tysie has always led with heart, and that’s what made her leadership so powerful. She didn’t just shape schools—she shaped lives. Crossroads reflects her belief that every student deserves opportunity, belonging, and joy,” said **Phyllis Hardwick, Executive Director at Community Capital Fund and Crossroads Board Member.**

The Board will launch a regional search this summer to find the next superintendent—someone deeply aligned with the community’s values and prepared to build on Crossroads’ momentum.

McDowell didn’t just lead Crossroads—she helped build it from the ground up. The upcoming superintendent search will reflect that same spirit of intentionality, care, and community voice that has defined the Crossroads journey from the start.

“Tysie led with integrity, vision, and an unshakable belief in every child’s potential. She built a model of what student-centered, values-driven education can be,” said **Greg Valdovino, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Crossroads Board President.**

McDowell will remain in her role through June 2026, ensuring a seamless transition. Students, staff, and families will all have opportunities to participate in the selection process.

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About Crossroads Charter Schools

Crossroads Charter Schools (www.crossroadsschoolskc.org) is a free, public charter school network committed to providing high-quality, real-world learning experiences to students in downtown Kansas City. Since opening its doors in 2012, Crossroads has grown into a thriving K–12 network serving hundreds of students across three campuses: Central Street Academy (K–6), Quality Hill Academy (K–5), and Crossroads Preparatory Academy (7–12). With a focus on belonging, high expectations, creative culture, and real-world learning, Crossroads empowers students to thrive academically and personally.

Mission: To prepare and inspire students to build a better tomorrow by providing an academically rigorous PK-12 education in a creative, collaborative, community-focused environment.