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"Supporting those who support our schools!"

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2021 MAYORAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
(PLEASE TYPE YOUR RESPONSES IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.)

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Questions:

1. Please provide personal biographical data including information on your family, community involvement, work history, and your qualifications for office.

Born in Athens, Tennessee and raised in Hixson, Tennessee, Kim White is a proven leader with a passion for making a difference in communities. With a successful 16- year career with Fortune 500 company, ALLTEL Communications, Kim was responsible for recruiting top talent, building successful teams and growing market share in existing and newly acquired markets throughout the southeast. Upon her return to Chattanooga in 2003, Kim served as president and CEO of the Corker Group, fully leasing and managing over 2 million square feet of real estate.

For the past 11 years, Kim has served as the president and CEO of River City Company, the non-profit development organization with a 34-year history focusing on the economic growth and development of Downtown Chattanooga.

2. Please describe your experience/relationship with public schools.

As someone who grew up here, it was a privilege to attend public school and graduate from Hixson High School. I continued my public education experience for higher education when I attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and received a BA 1982. After graduation, I remained connected to my alma mater where I served as the chair of the UC Foundation - the 2nd woman in 50 years to hold the position. I am the former president of the UTC Alumni Board and the Chancellor's Roundtable. While at UTC, I became a member and later president of my sorority, Chi Omega, and am still involved as a proud mentor and alumna through endowing a scholarship for sorority members. Appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to the UT Board of Trustees in 2018, I currently serve on the Executive and Finance Committees. During my time at River City Company, I implemented a robust internship program for local college students along with partnering with the Step-Up program hosting high school students as interns.

3. Describe your platform's impact on the future of public education in Chattanooga.

As Mayor, I will be focused on strengthening our neighborhoods, and schools are a critical part of every neighborhood. Having neighborhoods that are safe with affordable housing options with quality streets, parks, and transit along with well paying job opportunities close to home will go a long way in bolstering the external factors that influence a child's ability to do well in school. Moreover, providing economic opportunities for families across our city will underpin the entire learning experience for children. With a focus on creating high quality jobs and developing workforce training opportunities that are accessible to residents in all neighborhoods of our city along with working with CARTA to improve our transit system, we can impact the future of public education in Chattanooga by strengthening the neighborhoods and homes of our students.

4. What is the role of the city in public education and how do you see its resources positively impacting students in our area?

No issue is more fundamental to Chattanooga's future than education. While the school system falls under Hamilton County, there is much the City can and must do to ensure that Chattanooga's children succeed. This is especially critical due to the disruptions that COVID-19 has caused. We must leverage every relationship and every resource for our students.

With a focus on true collaboration, I will work with County and school leaders on a partnership that provides tangible and real support for their teaching efforts. While we will leave curriculum to the professionals, we will work with school leaders and private organizations to provide children and families support before and after school along with summer and break programming for Chattanooga's students specifically utilizing our Youth and Family Development Centers and library locations. As identified by education professionals, we will match the needs of the students to the offerings at these City facilities along with partnering on transportation as a coordinated effort to get students to safe, learning environments outside of their classrooms.

We face a major challenge in ensuring that Chattanooga's children are prepared when they begin their formal education. With the City's Office of Early Learning, we will work alongside the Early Matters Coalition, a collection of 40 local organizations leading the way in this space, to significantly increase the number of seats in quality Pre-K and childcare facilities because access and availability of childcare and early learning opportunities is an issue across our city.

*Please email your response by **January 25 at 6:00 PM** to president@hceaeducators.org*