**Mr. Alexis Demetrious Pipkins, Sr.** is a passionate educator, grant writer, and advocate who is committed to providing innovative and transformative programs to improve the quality of life of those that he serves professionally and as an elected official. Presently, he is employed as the Executive Director of Lee County First Steps which is a local state funded non-profit agency which provides services and programs for children and families. Lee County First Steps (LCFS) was established in 1999, with a mission to ensure that children arrive at school healthy and ready to learn. LCFS has had a long history of addressing the mission and continuously striving to implement programs to increase the possibility of positive outcomes for families and children in the Lee County community. Previously, Mr. Pipkins has served as Lee County Adult Education Family Literacy Coordinator. Mr. Pipkins has also served on the Florence School District 1 School Board of Trustees (2001-2022).

In addition, Mr. Pipkins is a humanitarian who is passionate, innovative, and transformative in his philosophical approach to ensure that he maximizes the program and services for the children and families by aggressively seeking additional funding streams and partnerships. He is a leader in early childhood advocacy and family engagement and support services.

Mr. Pipkins is an ordained Elder of the Gospel and serves as an Associate Minister and previously as a Youth Advisor at the Greater Gethsemane Apostolic Church in Florence, South Carolina.

Mr. Pipkins’ educational and professional training include:

* 1990 Honor Graduate of the historic Wilson High School in Florence, South Carolina
* Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a concentration in Secondary Education Graduate from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC
* Master of Arts Degree in Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri
* Educational Specialist Degree: Specialization in Leadership in Educational Administration with

Emphasis in School Leadership in Minneapolis, Minnesota

* Completion of the Non-Profit Leadership Institute at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC
* Completion of Rural Leadership Institute at the Francis Marion University in Florence, SC
* SC Pyramid Cadre Trainer/ Consultant as provided in the (Pyramid Model Innovations)

In addition, Mr. Pipkins Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr. subscribes to quotes as his professional passion: **“*If there is no struggle, there is no progress” (Fredrick Douglas), “Give a man three fish he lives for a day, but teach a man to fish he lives for a lifetime…” (Anne Isabella Ritchie).***