

Melanie J. Johnson, Ed.D.

President and CEO



Melanie Johnson, Ed.D., joined Collaborative for Children as president and CEO in July 2018. Dr. Johnson has an extensive background in leadership and educational programming, and a passion for early childhood learning.

Early in her career, Dr. Johnson served as the head of the department for development education at Galveston College, where she designed curriculum and assessment for developmental English, reading, writing and mathematics. Later, as the director of faculty development at The Art Institute of Houston, she facilitated training seminars and workshops around quality improvement.

Dr. Johnson served as the director of the education department at NASA's Space Center Houston for six years, during which time she created award-winning education programs, developed STEM programs that promoted equality in education and careers, and aligned the agency's curricular content with state, national and international standards.

In 2015, Dr. Johnson was named president and CEO of the John P. McGovern Museum of Health of Medical Science. There, her successful leadership in expanding revenue, attendance and awareness led to the museum's designation as the first Smithsonian Affiliate Institution in Houston's Museum District. She also established diverse community partnerships resulting in additional revenue streams and generated earned revenue that surpassed fundraising revenue for the first time in the museum's 21-year history.

Dr. Johnson's many accolades include the Microsoft World Youth Foundation Seeds of Gratitude Award for Educational Excellence, the Ivy League Youth Education and Charitable Foundation Award for the City of Houston's Best Educators, the Pierre and Marie Curie Award for the Sciences, the American Alliance

of Museum's Nancy Hanks Award for Professional Excellence, and designation as one of the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Thought Leaders. She was named one of the "Top 30 Most Influential Women in Houston" in 2015 and a "Woman on the Move" by the Texas Executive Women's organization in 2018. She is a graduate of the Center for Houston's Future and the American Leadership Forum and is a member of the Greater Houston Partnership.

A native of Alabama, Dr. Johnson graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Business/French. She earned a Master of Hospitality Management from the University of Houston and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Southern University. Dr. Johnson and her husband, Bruce, have two sons, Austin and Cameron.