

Dr. Melanie Johnson has served as President and CEO of Collaborative for Children since 2018. For more than 37 years, the non-profit has provided learning opportunities for under-resourced children ages birth to five. She leads the state's largest region of early learners in strategic digital transformation and systems building to improve school-readiness outcomes. She delivers metrics-driven outcomes through her innovation of the first early childhood database that tracks the learning trajectory of very young children.

Previously, she served as President and CEO of the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science, where she led the museum to become a Smithsonian Affiliate. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Johnson served as NASA's Space Center Houston's Director of Education.

Dr. Johnson was awarded the national Nancy Hanks Award by the American Alliance of Museums during her tenure at Space Center Houston. Under her leadership at The Health Museum, it became the first nonprofit business to be awarded Houston Business Journal's Diversity Award. She has been named a Women Who Mean Business honoree, and a "Most Admired CEO" by the Houston Business Journal.

Dr. Johnson serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Greater Houston Partnership and the Texas Southern University Foundation Board. Since 2019, she has served as a governor-appointed Commissioner on the Texas Animal Health Commission.

She holds a B.A. from Auburn University, a Master's from the University of Houston, and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Southern University in Houston.

With Dr. Johnson's direction, Collaborative for Children is becoming the change agent in 21st century early childhood education. Achievements before age 5 mean a greater chance at success for the rest of a child's life. Dr. Johnson wants to give every five-year-old the best chance for that success.