

MICHELLE R. JOHNSTON, PH.D.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA: POST-DOCTORATE IN MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING	2008
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP	2006
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY: MASTER OF MUSIC (M.M.)	1995
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA: BACHELOR OF MUSIC (B.M.), SUMMA CUM LAUDE	1993

EMPLOYMENT

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY – 2024 TO PRESENT

President

COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA – 2018-2024

President

UNIVERSITY OF RIO GRANDE AND RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE -- 2014-2018

President

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO -- 2007-2014

Senior Vice President for Administrative Affairs (2010-2014)
Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness (2009-2010)
Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (2007-2009)
Assistant Professor, Marketing and Management (2008-2014)

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE -- 2005-2007

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership (2006-2007)
Interim Director of Educational Research and Instructor (2005-2006)

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY – 2002-2005

Continuing Education Manager, Division of Academic Outreach & Continuing Education (2002-2005)
Special Projects, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (2002)

WOOD COLLEGE – 1997-2002

Assistant to the President (2001-2002)
Music Department Chair and Assistant Professor (1997-2002)

PHILLIPS COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – 1996-1997

Director of Music Division, Fine Arts Department
Instructor, Choral and Music Studies

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

University System of Georgia Chancellor's Cup for Enrollment and for Retention Growth (2024 and 2025)
Boy Scouts of America, Coastal Georgia Council, 2024 Golden Eagle Award
Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors
Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, Board of Directors
SumterStrong Steering Committee Member
Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Educational Service Agency, Board of Control
Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Georgia, Board of Directors
Coastal Georgia Historical Society, Board of Directors
The Camden Partnership, Board of Directors
Coastal Georgia Symphony, Board of Directors
Marine Corps University, Board Member and Chair (US Secretary of Defense-Appointee)
Ohio's Sexual Assault and Prevention Initiative, Leadership Team (Chancellor-Appointee)
Society of Ohio Commodores (Governor-Appointee)
Committee on Accountability, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Executive Committee, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio
Ohio State University-South Centers, 2016 Supporter of the Year
Ohio Presidents Forum (2017), Advisory Committee (Senator Sherrod Brown-Appointee)
Higher Education Regional Partnership (Lawrence County, Ohio), Leadership Team
Welsh American Heritage Museum, Board Member (former)
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Team Chair and Peer Reviewer
Leadership Georgia, Alumnus
Leadership Shelby (Alabama), Alumnus
Honored with Award Naming – Michelle R. Johnston Award for Servant Leadership, awarded by the Institute for Executive Women
Esther Edwards Scholar for Female Leaders in Higher Education, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Leadership Development: Receiving Feedback, President's Panel, Executive Leadership Institute, University System of Georgia, December 2025.

Fireside Chat with Larry Thompson, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General Griffin Bell Lecture Series, Georgia Southwestern State University, March 2025.

Leadership Development: Embracing Challenges for Growth, President's Panel, Executive Leadership Institute, University System of Georgia, December 2024.

Engagement with Your CEO, President's Panel, Chief Business Officers Flywheel Program, February 2024.

Women in Higher Education: Who We Were and Who We Are Now, Presidents Panel, Georgia Association of Women in Higher Education (GAWHE) Conference, February 2022.

Utilizing National High Profile Racial Incidents to Guide Planning for Inclusion and Equity, Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) Conference, November 2021.

State of Workforce and Education, Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, October 2021.

Student Success, Momentum Approach, and Transforming the Classroom, University System of Georgia President's Retreat, October 2021.

Higher Education Leadership Perspectives, University Economic Development Association (UEDA) Summit, September 2021.

Leading through the Untimely and the Unexpected, Georgia Association of Women in Higher Education (GAWHE) Conference, February 2020.

Leadership Journey and Lessons, Women's Power Breakfast, Institute for Executive Women, October 2019.

Ceremony Address, United States Naturalization Ceremony, Southern District of Georgia, August 2019.

Strategic Philanthropy: The President-Athletic Director Partnership, NAIA National Convention, April 2018.

Preparing on Campus for Change from Tax and Higher Education Legislation, invited panelist, NAICU Annual Meeting, February 2018.

Collaborative Fundraising for Presidents and Athletic Directors, The Business of Small College Athletics Conference, October 2017.

Faculty Development: A Path to Pedagogical Progress, Keynote Address for Faculty Development Forum, Eurasia University, Xi'an (China), May 2017.

Changing Campus Culture: NOW!, Ohio Department of Higher Education Campus Sexual Prevention Summit, February 2016.

Synergy Revisited: Aligning Goals, Strategies, and Tactics for Purpose-Driven Advancement, International Presidents Forum, Macau (China), November 2015.

Changing Campus Culture: Our Role in Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence, Ohio Department of Higher Education Trustees Conference, November 2015.

Refresh! Rebrand! Reconsider?, CASE District III Conference, February 2013.

The Big Dance – Choreographing the 'Big Picture' and the 'Gory Details' of Compliance Certification, SACS Commission on Colleges Annual Conference, December 2012.

Reaffirmation: Considering a New Story, Rockingham Community College Campus Forum, March 2012.

Design for Student Success: Blended Learning Can Offer the Best of Both Worlds, 19th Annual Conference of the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications, November 2007.

Development of a University-Wide Outreach Program, International Conference on Teaching & Leadership Excellence, May 2007.

The Effects of Peer Teaching on Science Achievement of Elementary Preservice Education Majors, Louisiana Academy of Sciences, March 2007.

The Effects of Peer Teaching on the Mathematics Achievement of Preservice Elementary Education Majors, Louisiana Academy of Sciences, March 2007.

The Proliferation of E-Folios: For Better or Worse, Creating Futures through Technology Conference, February 2007.

Action Research: Cultivating a Spirit of Inquiry, Louisiana Association for Alternative Certification, November 2006.

The Sustainability of the Two-Year Private College, Southeastern Association for Community College Research Annual Conference, July 2006.

Presidential Perspectives Regarding the Sustainability of the Two-Year United Methodist Colleges in the United States, The National Association of Colleges and Schools of the United Methodist Church, July 2006.

Innovative Use of Technology for Academic Outreach and Continuing Education, Creating Futures through Technology Conference, March 2005.

Partners Providing the Best Services to the Most People, Rural Development Summit of the Midsouth Partnership for Rural Community Colleges, January 2005.

Contract Conferences: How Successful Is Your Marriage?, National Noncredit Conference, April 2004.

Analyzing Our Institutions: The Application of the Case Method of Instruction (CMI) to Organizational Evaluation, Southeastern Association for Community College Research Annual Conference, July 2003.

The Technology Tool: Thoughts for Aspiring Administrators, Women in Science and Technology Conference, February 2003.