

Press Release



For Immediate Release

The HOPE Center Board of Directors Appoints Cassandra Johnson As President & Chief Executive Officer

*Johnson brings over two decades of early childhood education experience
and a vision for growth*

DENVER (September 14, 2022) – The HOPE Center, one of the city's oldest early childhood education preschools serving and impacting children of color in northeast Denver, has announced that the Board of Directors has appointed Cassandra Johnson as president & chief executive officer. Johnson enters her new role with a wealth of experience, having been with the Hope Center for more than 25 years, serving as the chief operating officer and, most recently, as interim president and chief executive officer since May 2022.

"We are pleased that Cassandra will lead the HOPE Center in its critical mission, which has transformed the lives of so many of our youngest pupils and those in our community who are often marginalized," said Kevin Robinson, HOPE Center board chair. "Cassandra's more than two decades with the organization only enhances the board's confidence that the future is bright and will be focused on enriching the legacy of the HOPE Center in the Denver community and beyond."

Throughout the years with the HOPE Center, Johnson has cherished the opportunity to welcome every child and their family, knowing they will receive a high-quality and culturally rich early childhood learning experience. Johnson now looks forward to continuing the center's rich legacy of building the foundation for children to become lifelong learners and the future of the HOPE Center for the next 60 years.

"The mission of Hope Center pumps through my veins, it is more than an organization, it's a living pillar of HOPE for so many individuals, children, families, and our Denver community," said Johnson. "Our roots are strong, as the Hope Center was founded on equity, and we ensure our programs and services uphold the highest level of quality and excellence!"

Johnson has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management and an MBA in Administration. In addition to her degrees, she holds a Level VI Credential, is Director Qualified, and received a grad certificate in Early Care and Education Leadership from the University of Denver. As a participant in the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program, it awakened her passion for learning about the science and research on children's brain development during the first critical five years of life and their social-emotional and cognitive development. Johnson is a founding member and affiliate president for the National Black Child Development Institute Denver Chapter and a founding member of the Righteous Rage Institute for Healing and Social Justice. She is a mother of three who attended the Hope Center and has a granddaughter who recently enrolled.

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About HOPE Center

The HOPE Center is an institution for early childhood education and adults with disabilities, founded in 1962 with six children and two teachers. Through its early childhood and vocational programs, the Hope Center lays the foundation for children to grow and adults to thrive. Today, the nationally recognized center has a yearly enrollment of over 200 children and 35 adults, with an average staff of 30. The HOPE Center has received numerous awards for its curriculum and high-quality learning experiences. The HOPE Center is a strong community advocate for education equity and equality in the communities we serve, including northeast Denver and Park Hill. For more information about the HOPE Center, please visit www.hopecenterinc.org.

Media Contact:

Niambi Nicholes

Gomez Howard Group

niambi@gomezhowardgroup.com / (303) 437-8229