

Dr. Johnnie Sexton, Au.D.

Board Director



Dr. Johnnie Sexton, Au.D., is a nationally recognized educational audiologist, entrepreneur, nonprofit leader, and advocate who has dedicated more than four decades to improving the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing and the families who support them. His extensive experience in pediatric and educational audiology, early intervention, family engagement, and educational leadership brings exceptional expertise to the Darden-Perry Academy Board of Directors.

Dr. Sexton earned his Bachelor of Science (1977) and Master of Science (1979) degrees from East Carolina University before completing his Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) at A.T. Still University–Arizona School of Health Sciences in 2010.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Sexton has been a pioneer in educational audiology and early intervention. He served on the team that designed North Carolina's statewide audiology early intervention system, including the newborn hearing screening program, and later served as Co-Chair of the North Carolina Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Board.

Dr. Sexton is the Founder and Executive Director of The CARE Project, a nationally recognized nonprofit dedicated to empowering families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing through emotional support, education, and family-centered services.

In addition to his nonprofit leadership, he owns John E. Sexton & Associates, Inc. (JESA), providing educational audiology and sign language interpreter services to approximately two-thirds of North Carolina's public school systems and numerous charter schools. He also owns Specialty Speech & Education Services (SSES), providing specialized speech-language pathology services for children.

His honors include two North Carolina Speech, Hearing and Language Association Clinical Achievement Awards (1996 and 2017), recognition as the 2018 Audiology Practitioner of

the Year in the United States, and multiple nominations for the Antonia Maxon Award of Excellence.

As a member of the Darden-Perry Academy Board of Directors, Dr. Sexton provides nationally recognized expertise in educational audiology, early intervention, family engagement, deaf education, educational accessibility, and strategic program development. His lifelong commitment to improving opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing children directly supports the Academy's vision of a dual-language English-American Sign Language educational model.

Areas of Expertise

- Educational Audiology
- Pediatric Audiology
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Education
- Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI)
- Family Engagement
- Nonprofit Leadership
- Educational Accessibility
- Sign Language Interpreter Services
- Speech-Language Services
- Strategic Planning
- Statewide Program Development
- Educational Consulting