

Dr. David Johns

David Johns grew up in a working-class family in northeast Ohio. His paternal grandmother was a first-generation immigrant and his mother was raised in the mountains of West Virginia; like many students at Wenatchee Valley College, he was the first in his family to attend college.

Since January 2018, Johns has been a college president in Virginia. He is an energetic and collaborative leader committed to helping students succeed and communities thrive.

He graduated from Malone University in Canton, Ohio, earned an M.A. from Earlham School of Religion, an M.L.S. from Kent State University, and has a Ph.D. from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Throughout his career, Johns has been a faculty member at the undergraduate and graduate levels, has been an adjunct professor at two state universities, has been a college chaplain, an academic librarian, a college dean, a vice president for academic affairs, and now a college president.

While teaching at Earlham, he developed a cross-cultural study program, led student groups to Mexico and Honduras, and was a Scholar-in-Residence at a non-profit in Mexico City. He has been active with accreditation work, expanding academic programs, developing agreements with area community colleges, establishing partnerships to assist transfer students, and increasing study away opportunities.

He has served on a number of higher education committees and boards, has collaborated with economic development directors as well as regional and local tourism organizations to establish college-community partnerships. He has overseen his state's presidents' association, been active in college fundraising and alumni relations, and has advocated for college support before state legislators and the governor.

Johns enjoys skiing, cycling, and hiking. He is married to Susan Johns, a speech-language pathologist, and their children live in Idaho, Indiana, Alabama, and Tennessee.