



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ramona Johnson
Public Relations & Marketing Manager
O: 901-458-2678, ext. 233
C: 901-604-3809
ramona.johnson@cmom.com
CMOM.com

PRESS RELEASE

CMOM Appoints New Executive Director

Stewart L. Burgess, Ph.D.

Memphis, Tenn., July 15, 2019 – The Children’s Museum of Memphis announces the appointment of Stewart L. Burgess, Ph.D., as our new Executive Director. After serving four years on the museum’s Board of Trustees, Dr. Burgess brings to the museum a strong background in early childhood education and development and he is looking forward to the opportunity to further develop our community relations, operations, and development. He will be on the museum campus August 1 and is replacing Stephanie Butler who stepped down October 2018.

“My passion for fostering child development lead me to spend the past 25 years conducting research, writing, teaching, designing curriculum and, engineering learning environments with the goal of helping children delight in, and excel at, learning.” said Dr. Burgess. “The likelihood of investing my life’s work in the future of a museum so loved and supported by the community is an opportunity I simply cannot pass up.”

“When you have had the good fortune to work with Dr. Burgess on the Board for years and have seen his devotion and heart for the museum,” said Bridgette Speake, President of the Board of Trustees, “he was the obvious choice to take the helm. With his creativity and expansive vision, we are certain he will take on challenges, inspire staff and supporters, and make a further impact on the lives of children.”

Dr. Burgess is a developmental psychologist with an extensive career in early childhood learning with a strong emphasis on designing curriculum, innovative educational spaces, parent education and faculty professional development in addition to his community outreach efforts centered on child development. While completing his master's degree in Experimental Psychology, he was a member of the MacArthur-granted research team that created and normed the MacArthur Communicative Development Inventories (MacArthur CDI), the first and foremost comprehensive standardized assessment of early language development. Dr. Burgess received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine, where his primary research focus was on early intellectual skills, and where he was named a UC Board of Regents Dissertation Fellow for his research on the effects of emotion on memory in young children.

He is the co-author of *Toddler Next Steps™*, a book produced by Brilliant Beginnings which earned the National Parenting Seal of Approval and two Director's Choice awards by *Early Childhood News* for outstanding quality in parenting and professional development materials. Dr. Burgess has been published in a number of highly regarded scholarly journals including *Developmental Psychology* and has presented at the most prestigious child development and education meetings. He served as Lower School Early Learning Director at St. George's Independent School since 2003 before accepting his new role at CMOM.

About The Children's Museum of Memphis

A private, nonprofit organization, The Children's Museum of Memphis (CMOM) creates memorable learning experiences through the joy of play in hands-on exhibits and programs.

###