

Johnny Boucher Biography

Johnny Boucher is the first confirmed out-transgender candidate for a Texas school board, a nonbinary Lambda Literary Award contributing finalist in LGBTQ anthology, and the teacher-leader recipient of awards such as *Greater East Dallas Teacher of the Year*.

While guiding their Exemplary public Montessori classroom by day, by evenings and weekends Johnny organizes transgender community both nationally and internationally, administrating medical and personal support groups. The total membership exceeds 50,000 participants. Johnny is a member of the Mayor's LGBT Task Force for the City of Dallas, as well as a trustee for Hope Day School, the only-known early childhood school administrated entirely by LGBT leadership; it is associated with Dallas' Cathedral of Hope, the world's largest predominantly LGBT church.

Johnny holds a Master of Education degree specializing in Montessori and Early Literacy, awarded by Southern Methodist University. Johnny is credentialed in Montessori through the Association Montessori Internationale, the Netherlands, and was recently selected to join the competitive Dallas ISD LEAD cohort, which identified 25 of the most promising educators in the city for intense mentorship in urban schools administration, as well as awarding a scholarship for study toward a Master of Education degree in School Leadership through the University of North Texas Dallas.

For courageous challenges to the status quo, Johnny has been featured in *The Male Montessorian*, *UK Ed Magazine*, and *Montessori Life*. Video of Johnny's classroom is used to calibrate quality for the US-national *Developmental Environmental Rating Scale*, as well as the *Teacher's Excellence Initiative* administrative calibration for all Dallas principals. Johnny has been named a city *Distinguished Teacher Ambassador* and *Teacher Excellence Initiative Campus Expert*, among other leadership roles for supporting growth of peers.

Together with spouse Ashley Boucher, who is also openly transgender and a community organizing fixture in Dallas herself, and with their two gender non-conforming children, the Boucher family makes frequent appearances among both queer and education scenes, bringing worlds together for brand-new conversations in equity, welcome, and a place for all to thrive.