

Roberta Johnson, UCAR Director Education and Outreach and Scientist, High Altitude Observatory, NCAR



Dr. Johnson received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Geophysics and Space Physics from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1980, 1984, and 1987, respectively. Her scientific research has focused on the dynamics of the lower thermospheric region, with particular emphasis on high latitude effects. Her scientific interests are broad, ranging from paleoclimatology and global change issues to solar terrestrial relations, magnetosphere-ionosphere-thermosphere coupling, to planetary atmospheres and related topics in space and planetary physics.

As UCAR Director of Education and Outreach, Dr. Johnson has responsibility to direct, develop, coordinate, and manage a complex and multifaceted education and outreach program serving UCAR, NCAR, and UOP. She has been a PI, Co-PI, or Co-I on numerous NASA and NSF research grants and is the PI of a major NASA-funded education and public outreach web site (Windows to the Universe) that brings the Earth and space sciences to the public, reaching over 5 million users per year, including K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students and educators. This project has involved collaborations with K-12 educators and museum and library professionals since its inception. She has also been responsible for the development of several related education and outreach web sites, including the Space Physics and Aeronomy Research Collaboratories Outreach website, “Today’s Space Weather”, and the NCAR Education and Outreach website.

Dr. Johnson was the Director of the Michigan Space Grant Consortium from 1995 – 2000, supporting a broad program of education, outreach, and research infrastructure building for the State of Michigan funded by NASA. She has also developed and run numerous in-depth education workshops for middle and high school educators on the geosciences focusing on global change, climate change and modeling in the geosciences. She is a regular presenter of educational workshops at National Science Teachers Association and other professional venues, and has been a frequent presenter at educational events at schools and other educational institutions on the Earth and space sciences and gender issues.

Dr. Johnson has held numerous positions on professional society committees and advisory boards. These include: Chair of the Committee on Education and Human Resources of the American Geophysical Union, and member of the American Meteorological Association’s Education Advisory Committee, the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Applications Advisory Committee, the Office of Space Science Sun Earth Connections Roadmap committee (for Education), and the Space Science Working Group of the American Association of Universities. She has also participated on numerous advisory boards such as the Vermont Center for the Book’s “Mother Goose Asks Why” program, and the University of Colorado Women in Engineering Corporate Advisory Board. She has over 30 publications in the scientific literature.