

**KIRSTEN ELLENBOGEN, PH.D.**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER**



Lakes Science Center (GLSC) in 2013 with a strategic initiative developed in collaboration with corporate leaders to change the community's narrative around advanced manufacturing for diverse middle-school youth and families. This work was recognized by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, who chose GLSC as the unveiling site for the National Week of Making with Mythbuster's host Adam Savage in 2016. Most recently, GLSC has launched *Cleveland Connections*: a new initiative integrating emerging technologies, such as blockchain and industrial internet of things, to educate and empower youth in developing personal and community solutions. She leads an innovative and committed team at GLSC that has used the best scientific research to develop safe operating models, allowing them to continue to serve families and schools during the public health and economic crises that have magnified persistent racial inequities in our community. GLSC has been honored for this work and named a 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service finalist, recognizing their pioneering approaches and deep community partnerships during this time. In 2022, GLSC was voted a top three science museum in the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice travel awards.

Her research focus has included measuring the community impact of science centers and studies at the intersection of rhetoric, science communication, and informal science education. She was appointed to Section X of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and to the National Academy of Sciences' committee that produced *Learning Science in Informal Environments*. Dr. Ellenbogen's energetic leadership on field-advancing initiatives such as the Center for Informal Learning and Schools and the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network, has included serving as co-principal investigator of the Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education. She was elected President of the Visitor Studies Association in 2007. In 2010, she was awarded a Noyce Fellowship focused on using museum resources to help policy makers use scientific evidence to inform decision-making. She is honored to have received recognition as the 2015 Community Inspiration Award at STEMCON, 2017 Crain's Women of Note Award, 2019 Crain's Notable Women in STEM, 2019 Cleveland Magazine Women Living STEM, and 2021 & 2022 Cleveland 500 Leaders, Doers, Visionaries, & Idea Generators Who Shape the City.

In recent years, she has served as chair of the Downtown Cleveland Alliance Visioning Committee, as well as Secretary of the board and co-chair of the conference planning committee of the Association of Science and Technology Centers, serving more than 600 science centers in 48 countries. In 2018, Dr. Ellenbogen was selected to serve on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication Research and Practice, and in 2020 was appointed co-chair. In 2021, she was chosen for the pioneering, blue ribbon committee assembled by the Rita Allen Foundation on The Practice and Science of Civic Science.

Dr. Ellenbogen is passionate about Cleveland and has been honored to lead GLSC in playing important roles that help put the city in the spotlight for the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2021 National Football League Draft. She served on the Cleveland Mayor's Sustainable City Committee, the Planning and Urban Design Committee of the Group Plan Commission and is a proud alumni of the 2014 class of Leadership Cleveland. She currently serves on the boards of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland's MC<sup>2</sup>STEM High School, and the Cleveland Water Alliance where her term as Chair started January 2023. She received her Ph.D. in Science Education from Vanderbilt University and her B.A. from the University of Chicago. She lives in Shaker Heights with her husband, a Cleveland Metropolitan School District teacher, and their two children.