



Clifford W. Houston, Ph.D., is the Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and holds the Herman Barnett Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Microbiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He is the former Deputy Associate Administrator for Education in the Office of Education at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

During his two-year appointment at NASA Headquarters, Houston also maintained his positions at UTMB. At NASA, he provided day-to-day oversight and guidance for three primary divisions: elementary and secondary education, higher education and informal education. The elementary and secondary and higher education divisions develop space science programs, research opportunities and networking resources for students and faculty at all education levels. The informal education division collaborates with science centers and museums to provide space science education to all ages of the general public. Houston also oversaw NASA's technology and products office, which provides technology for educational tools to support distance learning and advanced education.

A native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Dr. Houston earned a baccalaureate degree in Microbiology & Chemistry and a master's degree in Biology from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In 1979, he obtained his doctoral degree in Microbiology & Immunology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Upon completion, Dr. Houston was named a James W. McLaughlin Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Texas Medical Branch prior to taking a faculty position at the institution in 1981. His research at UTMB has focused on the role that bacterial toxins play in the pathogenesis of disease. As an administrator, he participated in the Management Development Program in the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University in 1994.

Dr. Houston's career has been stellar and he has garnered a plethora of honors. He received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2000; selected to the International Who's Who Professional-1996 Program; elected to the American Academy of Microbiology in 1997; and selected for a Burroughs-Wellcome/ASM Visiting Professorship in 1999. He recently was appointed to the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences External Advisory Council. **He is the past-president of the American Society for Microbiology. This is the largest professional biological scientific organization in the world with 45,000 scientist members.**

An effective leader and recognized authority in biomedical sciences, Dr. Houston currently serves as the chair of the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) Steering & Planning Committee and as past chair of the American Society for Microbiology Education Board. A prolific author, he has published numerous articles and abstracts, and he has addressed prestigious audiences throughout the world. Finally, he has established many educational programs and activities in the Galveston community as well as across the country to enhance the interest of young students in mathematics and science. He believes that the students are this country's future and we should invest in that future.