

# Art McCoy, Ph.D.

## A Trailblazer, Champion for Children, Scholar, Proven Leader

**Dr. Art McCoy** is a distinguished educator, visionary leader, and passionate champion for children, with over three decades of service to education, community and workforce development, and public health. As a nationally recognized speaker, workforce expert, scholar and superintendent emeritus, social entrepreneur, and community leader, Dr. McCoy has spent his life engaging and empowering individuals and organizations to achieve lasting impact.



- Trailblazer in Education:** Dr. McCoy became Missouri's youngest certified teacher at just 19 years old, school principal at 23, District Gifted Director at 25 after receiving his Ph.D. and later, the youngest superintendent of a mid-to-large school district. He was appointed Superintendent/CEO of Ferguson-Florissant School District at age 33, making history as the district's 1st African-American superintendent, and becoming a Harvard Pathway to Prosperity Grant Awardee of Gov. Jay Nixon and expert on career pathway, workforce development, and the apprenticeship model.
- Transformational Leadership:** Over his career, Dr. McCoy has overseen educational systems serving over 300,000 students and managed budgets exceeding \$160 million. His leadership has impacted more than 20,000 staff members across various roles, from teacher to superintendent, fostering educational environments focused on equity, innovation, and student success. While he served as the Superintendent-in-Residence/Chief Academic Officer of the MIND Research Institute and the Center for Education Innovation/Base 11 in Irvine, California, from 2014 to 2016, Dr. McCoy supported over 1 million K-12 students and 2500 schools and colleges across America with STEM initiatives and instruction programs.
- National and Global Education Influence:** Dr. McCoy has advised several U.S. governors and Secretaries of Education, including Rod Paige, Arne Duncan, and John King, on key national initiatives like No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Race to the Top, and the School Improvement Grant program, respectively. His influence extends internationally, advising and leading educational reforms in countries such as Kenya, South Africa, the UAE, and Canada.
- Pioneering Educational Reform:** In 2008 and beyond, as a leader in the Ferguson-Florissant School District, Dr. McCoy implemented groundbreaking programs like the STEAM College and Career Academy, providing students with seven career pathways with Industry Recognized Credentials, paid internships with \$17 to \$20 per hour, and up to 60 college credits by graduation (just as he crafted for himself to become Missouri's youngest teacher. Continuing such programs in Jennings School District, his district made history in 2017 and 2019 as the only urban district to achieve 100% career/college placement and the "Accredited with Distinction" rating with 90%+ African-American student body. Dr. McCoy led numerous initiatives to address community needs, including creating two school-based health clinics, two homeless shelters, and food hubs for families in need.
- Global Health Leadership:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. McCoy played a pivotal role as a leader guiding over 60 superintendents and training thousands of leaders worldwide as a Johns Hopkins University Certified Contact Tracer. He served on the Missouri Governor's COVID-19 Council and led Jennings School District to be the 1st in St. Louis to safely resume in-person schooling, ensuring zero student transmission during the 2019-2020 school year. Additional, since 2019 through 2024, Dr. McCoy's commitment to well-being also includes MIMH and NIMH grant award-winning work with Washington University pioneering Missouri's 1st Parent-Child Interaction Therapy in schools to support families' mental health and engagement.
- Legacy of Excellence:** Dr. McCoy has raised and directed the use of \$100+ million in private donations, settlements, and grants for innovative educational initiatives, mental health programs, and community services. His advocacy for education and social justice has earned him over 50 prestigious awards, including the "Sankofa Award" from the National Bar Association and the "Drum Major for Justice Award" from the Missouri MLK Jr. Holiday Commission.
- Boards and Advisory Roles:** A respected thought leader, Dr. McCoy has served on more than 35 executive boards, including Missouri's Jobs for America's Graduate led by the Governor, Commerce Bank, the Urban League, Mental Health America National, and BJC St. Louis Children's Hospital. Through SAGES, he has been a consultant and advisor to hundreds of corporations like Centene, Cigna, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other government agencies, universities and non-profits nationwide.
- Workforce Development Champion:** Since 2021, Dr. McCoy has been a Distinguished Fellow at Saint Louis University as well as the Regional Business Council's STL.works Champion of Workforce Development, where he supports 100+ major corporations and the St. Louis region in advancing workforce opportunities, education, and economic mobility.
- Family and Faith:** Above all, Dr. McCoy is a devoted father, husband, and minister, committed to faith, family, and service. Having celebrated 30 years of marriage in 2024, he continues to live his passion for family, mentoring, and uplifting others.

Through his visionary leadership and deep commitment to service, Dr. McCoy has been a beacon of hope and help, inspiring communities, students, and educators nationwide and globally. His servant leadership in education, public health, and workforce development leaves an indelible mark on the world, transforming lives and systems for a brighter future.