Tanya Smith-Johnson

Tanya Smith-Johnson, the current president of the National College of Midwifery, is a national figure in maternal health and midwifery, actively working to expand access to quality care in underserved communities and improving maternal health outcomes.

Tanya Smith-Johnson

Class of 1994

After high school, Smith-Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Navy and enrolled in the B.O.O.S.T College Prep Program. She received initial training at the U.S. Naval Hospital and Bethesda Naval Hospital Clinic, gaining valuable maternity ward experience that sparked her passion for maternal health and her dedication to addressing the social determinants of health and inequity faced by mothers and babies in marginalized communities. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and medical science from Hampton University. A mother of six and military spouse who moved frequently, she remains dedicated to social justice around the birthing experience.

In 2013, Smith-Johnson began her midwifery career, obtaining full certification in 2016 from the Midwives College of Utah. As president of the National College of Midwifery, she guides future midwifery students. Additionally, she's the policy director for Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii, developing and implementing programs for vulnerable populations. She was part of the Birth Place Lab's Global Perinatal Task Force, promoting safe maternity care during the pandemic. She also advocated for equitable care as a delegate at the U.S. Birth Summit IV. Moreover, she is co-founder and serves as executive director of the Birth Future Foundation, promoting initiatives on racial justice and equity in midwifery funding.