



Melissa Spalding

Vice President



Melissa Spalding serves as Vice President of the Museum of Aviation Foundation at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. As a Field Museum of the U.S. Air Force, the Museum features more than 85 aircraft and over 4,500 artifacts, welcoming more than 400,000 visitors annually.

The Foundation's team of 40 employees and 100+ volunteers work closely with government personnel to deliver an inspiring and educational visitor experience.

In her role, Melissa is a key member of the executive leadership team, providing strategic direction, operational oversight, and leadership to advance the Museum's mission. She supports the President and CEO, manages daily operations, and guides the Inspire and Educate departments. These include the award-winning National STEM Academy, which serves students and teachers from Pre-K through college, and the Visitor Experience department, which offers Heritage Tours and special events.

Melissa began her career at the Museum in 1996 as Director of the Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center. She became Director of Education in 2003 and was promoted to Vice President in 2022. Under her leadership, the Museum's education programs expanded to include STEM-based interactive lessons aligned with Georgia Department of Education standards. In 2012, these programs were designated as the National STEM Academy, with the name officially trademarked in 2018. Today, education programs serve more than 45,000 students and teachers annually.

A lifelong advocate for education, Melissa earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Florida State University (1991) and a Master's in Curriculum & Instruction from Nova Southeastern University (1996). She taught elementary school in Brevard County, Florida for six years and was named Teacher of the Year in 1995. Her accolades include the Houston County Woman of Achievement Award (2006), the Air Force Association Education Award (2010), and a Southeast Region Emmy Award (2009) for her work as Coordinating Producer of the Museum's film *Papa Said, "We Should Never Forget"*. She is also a graduate of the Perry Leadership Institute and Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions.

Melissa lives in Bonaire, Georgia with her husband, Paul. They have three children and are proud to serve their community.