The Carden Johnston Leadership Award is presented to a member of the AL-AAP in recognition of a career in pediatrics that encompasses not only high ethical and professional standards in patient care, but includes extraordinary stewardship and service to the organized profession of pediatrics as a whole in Alabama and at the District and national levels of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Created in 2011, the award is named in honor of Carden Johnston, MD, FAAP, of Birmingham, who served the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics well for more than 30 years, holding numerous offices including Chapter Chairman from 1980 to 1983, and has represented Alabama and children on a multitude of national committees of the AAP and became the first Alabama Chapter member to become a national advocate for children as AAP President in 2003.

Criteria for nominations include:

- Member in good standing of Chapter and national AAP
- Involved in Chapter activities for at least 10 years
- Member of the Chapter Executive Board for at least two years
- Significant contribution to national AAP and/or Alabama Chapter
- Encourages leadership development within the AAP

Procedures for nominations & selection of awardees:

1. Nominations may be made by any individual member of the AL-AAP.

2. Each nomination must consist of a letter of nomination and a CV of the nominee that clearly indicate his/her qualifications. The award, consisting of a plaque, will not necessarily be given annually, and only one recipient may be selected in any year. Previous winners are not eligible.

3. In the event that there is more than one nomination for the award in a given year:
   
   a. The Executive Director or other office staff will email the Executive Board all candidate materials; board members will be given at least one week to vote their choice for the award by email vote. The winner will be determined as the nominee with the most votes (counted by the Chapter office staff);

   b. Nominees who are not selected to receive the award in the year in which they were nominated will be considered the following year, but only after email confirmation between the Executive Director and the original nominator. The award would also be open to other nominees.

4. Nominations are due to the Chapter Executive Office no later than June 15 to be considered for that year’s award, which is presented at the Chapter Annual Meeting.