Eric Gordon was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) in June 2011 after having served as the district’s Chief Academic Officer for four years. He is responsible for the leadership and daily management of Cleveland’s 39,000-student school district.

Mr. Gordon, together with Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson and other business, philanthropic and educational leaders, successfully lobbied Ohio legislators in 2012 to pass The Cleveland Plan, a revolutionary package of education reform legislation that was signed into law on July 2, 2012. The Cleveland Plan has received national attention for its strong bipartisan support and unprecedented collaborative process that united the people of Cleveland around a collective mission to transform their public school system.

Mr. Gordon has been active nationally in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards curriculum and Social and Emotional Learning Standards for children. He is chair-elect of the Board of Directors for the Council of the Great City Schools, a member organization representing 70 large urban districts across the United States.

Before joining CMSD, Mr. Gordon was the Executive Director for Secondary Learning for the Olentangy Local Schools in suburban Columbus, Ohio. In that role, he was responsible for all aspects of education for students in grades 6-12.

CEO Gordon was honored with the Green-Garner Award in 2016, naming him the Urban Educator of the Year, the highest honor available to an urban superintendent in the United States.

Active in the Cleveland community, Mr. Gordon received a Smart 50 Award this year from Corporate College and Smart Business magazine for building and leading an effective organization and for his impact on the District.

He was featured in Inside Business Magazine’s “Power 100” in 2013, and was voted one of Cleveland Magazine’s “Most Interesting People” in 2012.
ELA honored its 2017 Education Partner of the Year, George Golden, Director of Closing the Achievement Gap (CTAG) for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) at the 2017 Alley Rally. Golden has worked closely with the Effective Leadership Academy for the past three years both in the classroom and through special events. He has facilitated the networking between the ELA staff and the CTAG linkage coordinators in CMSD schools to bring leadership skills that impact the development of social emotional skills and a growth mindset to the CTAG students.

ELA honored Cecilia Render, Executive Director for the Nordson Corporation Foundation, as the Philanthropic Partner of the Year at the 2016 Alley Rally. ELA has been privileged to be a grantee of the Nordson Corporation Foundation since 2012, and have benefited tremendously from their support over the years. In coordination with the Foundation, Cecilia Render has championed ELA’s work and mission in Lorain County for the past five years. ELA is deeply grateful for Render and the Foundation, and the organization is thrilled to recognize her contributions at the annual Alley Rally fundraiser.