



**October 19, 2011**

## **MSCC, STAND Foundation Promoting Student Leadership**

Mid-South Community College and the Arkansas STAND Foundation have joined forces to establish a Student Leadership Institute that will empower young people with tools and skills to improve themselves and their communities.

“We want our students to have the opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills and experience while in college, and we’re excited about the program’s potential to change lives in Eastern Arkansas,” said Dr. Dwayne Scott, MSCC Vice President for Student Affairs. “We’re the first college in Arkansas to pilot this program, and we are proud to lead an effort that will likely be replicated throughout the state.”

The STAND Leadership Institute provides relevant and dynamic training to facilitate and promote productivity, self-sufficiency, and community involvement. More specifically, the Institute works to strengthen leadership characteristics and development of young adults through personal, interpersonal, and career training.

“This is a program that has worked very successfully in communities across the state, exclusively with people who aren’t in college,” Scott said. “We have asked the STAND Foundation to modify their professional model so that it will translate into a college classroom environment, and they have assured me that they can create the appropriate curriculum.”

“In a professional setting, they would typically meet from 9 to 5 on a Saturday on a weekly or biweekly basis. We’ve requested that they streamline the presentations and training to 2-3 hours on a weekly basis, more common with what we would see in a typical classroom environment.”

Dr. Scott has talked with Tracy Steele, chief executive officer of The STAND Foundation and an Arkansas State Representative for the 39<sup>th</sup> District, and Jane Bogan,

curriculum specialist. They have agreed to primary responsibility for providing the speakers and outlining the leadership opportunities, strategies, and soft skills necessary for today's professionals.

STAND Foundation staff members possess more than 50 years of combined experience in the nonprofit sector and have carefully planned, designed, researched, and developed programs to meet the critical need for leadership training.

"Today's young adults face a great need for intensive leadership training to meet the challenges of the future," Scott said. "We believe our partnership with the STAND Foundation will help our students move to the forefront in leadership roles in their communities and their region."

The program at MSCC will be open to a limited number of students who have demonstrated potential, ability, and desire to become leaders. Fifteen students will be selected for the first class and approximately 30 have already expressed interest, a situation that will lead to a competitive application process.

"Our goal is not to limit the number of students who will have access to the program but to assure that the ones who express interest are fully committed to developing their leadership potential," Scott said. "We also want to keep the class size small so that all of the participants will receive the full benefit of the training."

AmeriCorps\*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a service program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, is also a partner of The STAND Foundation, and it will provide four trained individuals to assist in recruiting participants and planning training classes at MSCC.

"This program is going to help a lot of young people, and that's always been the bottom line of Mid-South Community College," Scott said.

For more information about leadership and other training/education opportunities at the college, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, call the Admissions Office at (870) 733-6728, email [admissions@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:admissions@midsouthcc.edu), or see the college's website at [www.midsouthcc.edu](http://www.midsouthcc.edu).