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MSCC Instructor Wins Election to Two-Year College Board

Mid-South Community College Communications instructor Mary Field has been elected as a Faculty Board Representative for the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC).

Field, who is in her 11th year at MSCC, won the election handily with 67 percent of the vote.



“I was very thrilled to win,” she said. “I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to serve and to represent MSCC in a very positive light. I have been in education most of my life, and I just wanted to do something in another venue that I had never done before.”

“On a personal level, I wanted to learn more about what’s going on at colleges in Arkansas. I wanted to be a part of the bigger picture. I already know more about how the dots connect across the state and how initiatives at two-year institutions are improving people’s lives.”

Field credits fellow MSCC faculty member Sherry Sanders Gray, who previously serves a representative on the AATYC board, for encouraging her to seek the office.

“She enjoyed it so much that she told me I should try it,” Field said. “She said she had networked with so many interesting people and had learned so much. That planted the seed, and then she volunteered to be my campaign manager and did an outstanding job.”

Field will serve a three-year term on the board that meets a minimum of four times a year to plan activities and workshops that benefit faculty and staff at all 22 two-year institutions in the state.

“It is a working board,” she pointed out. “At our first meeting in December, we will look at evaluations of what people thought of the annual conference and discuss possible themes and workshops for next year.”

“From what I understand, we will do the hands-on setup for the meeting, recruit presenters, develop the program, direct people at the conference, and work in the booths. We will be there all of the time and will be in charge of making it all work.”

Field has attended the annual conference nine times, so while she calls herself “the new kid on the block,” she is quite familiar with the format. She is already soliciting comments from MSCC employees about what they want to see at next year’s event.

A native of Fisher, Ark., in Poinsett County, Field graduated from Weiner High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education at Arkansas State University and a master’s degree in Speech and Drama at the University of Arkansas. She was the first in her family to earn a diploma of any kind.

“I was a first generation high school graduate,” she said. “My mom was not a high school graduate, and my dad never went to school a day in his life. But they always encouraged me to get an education.”

After earning her degrees, Field worked in a variety of education-related positions. She taught at Rivercrest High School for nine years, served five years as a coordinator for a volunteer reading program at the Memphis Library, worked in the Student Services Office at Baptist College of Nursing in Memphis for five years, and helped with tutoring in the University of Memphis Educational Support office.

At MSCC, Field teaches Oral Communications (speech) and Introduction to Theater. She also coordinates an annual speech competition for students who have completed Oral Communications.