

Dr. Annette Parker

Dr. Annette Parker was born and raised in Michigan where she worked for General Motors and met and married her husband of 38 years, Jeffrey, with whom she shares three children. Annette and Jeffrey enjoyed successful careers at GM, until a decline in the auto industry led the family to make a decision that would forever change their lives. At age 28, Annette would start in the 2-year drafting program at Lansing Community College, while Jeffrey continued to work and help care for their children.

While at Lansing Community College (LCC), she became a student employee, tutor, and laboratory assistant and discovered her passion for teaching and making a difference in the lives of her students. She then completed her bachelor's and master's degrees and became a full-time instructor for the colleges K-12 partnership program with Eaton Intermediate School District, faculty contract trainer for the Business and Community Institute, Computer-Aided Design faculty and department chair, and finally an administrator.



In 2006, the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) took notice of her successes in Michigan and asked her to serve as System Director for Workforce Education for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. In this role, she also served as Executive Director and Principle Investigator of the Automotive Manufacturing Technical Education Collaborative (AMTEC), a National Science Foundation Advanced Automotive Manufacturing Center of Excellence. A model for industry-education collaboration, AMTEC included partners from six of the world's largest automobile companies, 34 automotive manufacturers and 34 community colleges in 14 states.

During her six years in Kentucky, she also earned her doctoral degree in education leadership from Western Kentucky University.

Based on her accomplishments, in 2013 she was recruited to serve as President of South Central College, where her extensive industry knowledge and broad higher education experience have helped build capacity to serve the college's students and the communities in which they live. Part of the Minnesota State system, South Central College (SCC) is a comprehensive community and technical college with campuses in Faribault and North Mankato, Minnesota. The college has a history of innovative industry partnerships and under Dr. Parker's leadership has expanded its workforce development activities, which has included receiving a \$15 million Department of Labor and Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant for a 12 college consortium led by SCC.

She currently serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Roundtable on Systemic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education, National Academy of Science Symposium on Imaging the Future of Undergraduate Stem Education (Co-Chair), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Work of the Future Task Force Advisory Board, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning Advisory Council (Chair), Center for Occupational Research & Development (CORD) Board of Directors (Vice Chair), Minnesota Campus Compact Board of Directors (Chair), Iowa/Minnesota Campus Compact (Co-Chair), and Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) Chamber and Regional Economic Development Board of Directors.

Throughout her career, she has served as an inspiration particularly for minority and non-traditional students, demonstrating in her words and actions the impact education, combined with resiliency, can make in one's life and the lives of others.