

# **ZELEMA HARRIS**

## **HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

### **ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

St. Louis, Missouri

Interim Chancellor August 2007 to November 2007

Chancellor

November 2007 to June 30, 2011

#### **Major Accomplishments**

- Successfully led the College through reaccreditation for ten years.
- Cultivated relationships with key leaders in the St. Louis community. These relationships have laid the foundation for future partnerships and have supported existing partnerships.
- Developed strategic directions and choices for the College.
- Conducted a significant review of the Telelearning organizational unit and repositioned the College to focus on expanding distance learning through an integration of a Center for Distance Learning and enhanced Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Increased the visibility of the College through the Foundation Board leadership.
- Established a 30,000 square foot state-of-art Corporate College, designed to serve as a professional development hub for business and industry.
- Established a Center for Workforce Innovation, which focuses on expanding and creating innovative workforce programs including the St. Louis Aerospace Institute, industrial maintenance and sustainable construction.

### **PARKLAND COLLEGE**

Champaign, Illinois

President Emeritus since June 30, 2006

President

July 1990 – June 30, 2006

#### **Major Accomplishments**

- Successfully passed tax referendum during first 5 months of presidency.
- Established the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, an award-winning center for faculty development.
- Achieved distinction as one of the top two providers of Online Learning in Illinois.
- National and State Award Winner for College Planning process.
- Recipient of Regional Equity Award from the American Association of Community College Trustees.
- Designed successful leadership development program for Parkland that has gained national recognition.
- Developed key partnerships with business and industry, including area manufacturers, local high-tech companies, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Carle Foundation Hospital, and Provena Medical Center.

- Established Parkland's Business Development Center to serve short-term training needs of businesses; a \$1.5 million Child Development Center to serve students, faculty, staff, and community members with young families; an Agriculture Technology Applications Center to meet the high-tech needs of farmers and agribusinesses as well as a state-of-the-art greenhouse expansion; and a \$15 million new Academic & Instructional Services wing to provide additional classroom and computer laboratory space for students and faculty.
- Formed collaboration with local service providers to create Illinois' first One-Stop Center to better serve underemployed and unemployed district residents.

## **METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Kansas City, Missouri

President, Penn Valley Community College and its Pioneer Campus

July 1987 – June 1990

### **Major Accomplishments**

- Successfully led the merger between Penn Valley Community College (traditional institution with more than 85 percent tenured faculty) and Pioneer Community College (largely serving under prepared adults and businesses, with no tenured faculty.)
- Managed a faculty and staff of 380 and a culturally diverse student body of over 6,500 credit and 8,000 continuing education students.
- Initiated a \$3.7 million expansion and remodeling project at the college, including a new 5,000 square foot day care center, a new data processing center, as well as an office skills lab and learning center with a reading lab, and an academic computer center, during the first year of presidency.
- Formed a minority recruitment and retention committee with an emphasis on Hispanics and Black males.
- Established a faculty development fund for the purpose of improving the teaching/learning process.

President, Pioneer Community College

September 1980 – June 1987

### **Major Accomplishments**

- Implemented the Generational Educational Equity Program (GEEP) at the Wayne Miner Housing Development, which paired mothers and daughters caught in the welfare cycle and helped them upgrade their educational and employment skills.
- Developed the Midwest's first educational facility in a shopping mall, offering Pioneer classes at Bannister Mall.
- Increased enrollment from 2,000 students in 1980 to more than 5,000 students in 1986.
- Increased training for business and industry to serve more than 9,000 clients with revenue exceeding \$2.7 million.

## MAJOR AWARDS

“Most Influential Minority Business Leader” Honoree, *St. Louis Business Journal*, September 2008.

“Most Influential Business Women” Honoree, *St. Louis Business Journal*, August 2008.

AACC Leadership Award, April 2007.

“International Leadership Award,” National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), University of Texas at Austin, 2006.

“Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award,” Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the Two Year College, 2006.

“Black Women’s Achievements Lifetime Achievement Award,” Champaign County YWCA, Champaign County, Illinois, 2006.

“Outstanding Community Service Award,” National Council for African American Men, Champaign, Illinois, 2006.

“Community Builder Award,” Urbana Ancient and Free Masons, Urbana, Illinois, 2005.

“Humanitarian Award,” Cities of Champaign and Urbana and the Champaign County Board, 2005.

“Champaign County Farm Bureau Urban Agricultural Leader of the Year Award,” Illinois Farm Bureau, 2005.

“Most Valuable Citizen Award,” Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, 2002.

“Phenomenal Woman Award,” American Association of Women in Community Colleges, Harold Washington College Chapter, Chicago, Illinois, 2000.

“Outstanding Administrator,” first recipient of annual award given to college president who has promoted the use of institutional research. Illinois Association for Institutional Research (IAIR), 1999.

“Vocational Service Award for Education,” Champaign Rotary Club, 1998.

“CEO of the Year,” American Association of Community College Trustees, 1997.

“President of the Year,” American Association of Women in Community Colleges, 1997.

“Athena Award” for Outstanding Business/Professional Woman, Champaign County, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 1997.

“Women of Distinction,” Green Meadows Girl Scout Council, Urbana, Illinois, 1996.

“Wingspread Award,” Illinois Section of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, 1995.

“Leadership Award,” National Council on Black American Affairs, 1994.

Inductee, Women’s Hall of Fame, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 1988.

### **MAJOR PUBLICATIONS (since 1995)**

“Lessons Learned from a Presidency,” *The Presidency*, American Council on Education, Fall 2005.

“Compassionate Leadership Transcending Prejudice,” book chapter in *Encouraging Civility as a Community College Leader*, Paul A. Elsner and George R. Boggs, Editors, Community College Press, 2005.

“Commitment to Leadership Development Begins with the CEO,” book chapter in *The Leadership Gap*, Dale F. Campbell, Editor, Community College Press, 2002.

“Faculty Learners Create a Learning College,” Harris, Zelema; Rouseff-Baker, Fay; Treat, Tod, *Community College Journal*, April 2002.

“Access to Higher Education,” *Reconceptualizing Access in Postsecondary Education: Report of the Policy Panel on Access*, 1998.

“From Policy to Action: Implementation of NCA’s Statement on Access, Equity, and Diversity,” *NCA Quarterly*, Spring 1997.

“Leadership in Action: Leading Collectively at Parkland College,” *Community College Journal*, April/May 1996.

“A Journey Worth Taking: Transformational Quality and Leadership,” *Community College Journal*, April/May 1995.

### **KEY SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS (since 1995)**

“Living Out Loud,” Parkland College Commencement, Champaign, Illinois, June 2006.

“America, Honor God,” National Day of Prayer breakfast keynote address, Urbana, Illinois, May 2006.

“Embracing Leadership,” Women of Distinction Celebration keynote address, Green Meadows Girl Scout Council, Urbana, Illinois, March 2006.

“A Dream of Hope,” Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration keynote address, Urbana, Illinois, January 2005.

“The Leader as Team Builder,” Future Leaders Institute, American Association of Community Colleges, July 2003, February and July 2004, February 2005.

“Mission, Purposes and Strategic Planning in Community Colleges,” with Dr. Walter Packard of McHenry County College, Kiev, Ukraine, September 2004.

“The Changing Community College Presidency,” Future Presidents Institute, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, July 2003 and July 2004.

“Service above Self,” Rotary District Conference, Champaign, Illinois, June 2002.

“Compassionate Leadership,” Women’s Leadership Symposium, Collins County Community College, Plano, Texas, February 2002. “

“Speaking Truth to Power,” NAACP Annual Dinner, Kansas City Branch, Kansas City, Missouri, October 2001.

“Developing Institutional Leaders,” AACC Presidents Academy Summer Institute, Breckinridge, Colorado, July 2001, July 2003 and July 2004.

“Presidential Perspectives,” Frye Leadership Institute, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2001.

“The Changing Mission of Community Colleges,” Council for the Study of Community Colleges, Chicago, Illinois, April 2001.

“The State of Black Males: A Community-wide Response,” Illinois Community College Board Leadership & Core Values Conference, Springfield, Illinois, February 2001.

“Compassionate Leadership,” Phenomenal Woman Award Presentation, Harold Washington College, Chicago, Illinois, March 2000.

“The Role of the Trustee in Enrollment Management,” Bellwether Awards, Orlando, Florida, January 2000.

“Skills Community College Presidents Need in the Next Millennium,” Association of Community College Trustees Regional Conference, Traverse City, Michigan, June 1999.

“The Role of the Trustee in Hiring a More Diverse Staff,” American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, April 1999.

“Developing a Comprehensive International Education Office: The Parkland College Model,” American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, April 1999.

“Institutional Development and Change in American Community Colleges,” Community College Leadership Program, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, November 1998.

“Fostering Inclusivity and Multiculturalism in Colleges with Limited Diversity,” Kellogg Fellows Expanded Leadership Diversity Seminar, Oak Lawn, Illinois, October 1998.

“A New Kind of Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” American Association of Women in Community Colleges, Regional Conference, Peoria, Illinois, October 1998.

“From Policy to Action: Implementation of NCA’s Statement on Access, Equity, and Diversity,” North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, April 1997.

“Leading into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Ninth Annual Leadership Institute of the Consortium for Community College Development, Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 1997.

“Transformational Leadership,” Community College Leadership Program, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, October 1996.

“Multicultural and International Challenges to the Community College: A Model for College-wide Proactive Response,” American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 1995.

## **PAST NATIONAL AND STATE ACTIVITIES**

Grand Victoria Foundation, board member

Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois, board member

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), board member

American Council on Education (ACE) Office of Women in Higher Education, member of  
Commission on Women in Higher Education

AACC Leading Forward National Advisory Panel

Illinois Workforce Investment Board, Executive Committee

American Council on Education (ACE), former board member

Illinois Board of Higher Education Committee on Research & Assessment

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), former member of  
Executive Committee

Illinois Community College Board International Education Advisory Committee

Governor’s Summit on Education

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools,  
Consultant/Evaluator, former board member

National Council on Black American Affairs – North Central Region, board member

Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), former board member

CAUSE, (now Educause), the Association for Managing and Using Information Resources in  
Higher Education, former board member

## **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Missouri Workforce Investment Board, member (gubernatorial appointment)

St. Louis Regional Commerce & Growth Association, board member

Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, board member

St. Louis Science Center, commissioner

Missouri Botanical Garden, board member

Thomas Dunn Memorials Adult Education Program, board member

United Way of Greater St. Louis, board member

St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation, board member

St. Louis Coalition for Plant and Life Sciences, board member

St. Louis Coalition for Information & Communication Technology Advisory Board

League for Innovation in the Community College, board member

RC-2020, board member

Global Corporate College, board member

## **EDUCATION**

Harvard Institutes for Higher Education, Institute for Educational Management  
Harvard, University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Doctorate in Education  
Inducted in the Women's Hall of Fame

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Master of Science with Honors

Prairie View A&M University  
Prairie View, Texas  
Bachelor of Science