

Dennis Dio Parker

Regional Talent Development Consultant

Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

Dennis Parker is an in-house consultant for regional talent development for Toyota Motor North America, Inc. His experience spans 45 years in corporate education including 37 years in the automotive industry.

Dennis developed and founded Toyota's world-class advanced manufacturing technician collaborative known as the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) and the FAME Career Pathway. His accomplishments include supporting Toyota education to be one of only two business organizations in the U.S. to gain accreditation for its educational programs; visioning and establishing in partnership with Bluegrass Community & Technical College a special "manufacturing magnet" campus in Georgetown, Kentucky; developing the *Advanced Manufacturing Technician* associate degree program; developing and driving the vision that led to the first-in-the-U.S. PreK-to-Masters connected career pathway; visioning and then initiating development with the National Alliance for Partnership in Equity (NAPE) the "Make the Future" program to encourage technical careers for women; and starting Toyota's "Reach for the Stars" program, involving six universities and 12 degree programs.

The FAME Career Pathway won the NCPN (National Career Pathways Network) national award in 2013 for being the best career pathway program in the U.S. and was the first program cited for the Toyota Global Science Award for leadership in STEM education by the New York Hall of Science.

Dennis has served on the state steering committee for Career & Technical Education in Kentucky, on the Commission for Career and Technical Education of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and on the Kentucky Executive Council for Project Lead the Way. He was a recipient of the 2019 Kentucky Manufacturing Employee of the Year Award.

A Navy submarine veteran, he is married to Dana Rice Parker and lives in Pendleton County, Kentucky.