

Dr. Annette Parker Bio

Dr. Annette Parker began her education in a two-year drafting program at Lansing Community College (LCC). While attending LCC, she completed her bachelor's and master's degrees and became a full-time instructor and administrator. During her time at LCC, she worked on a number of innovative partnerships with the automotive industry, including developing a new campus to support the launch of two new General Motors plants in Greater Lansing. After 17 years at LCC, she accepted a leadership position with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System where she served for six years as System Director of Workplace Education, which included serving as Executive Director of the Automotive Manufacturing Technical Education Collaborative (AMTEC), a National Science Foundation Advanced Automotive Center of Excellence. In partnership with American, Asian, and European automotive companies, AMTEC grew to support 35 manufacturing plants in 14 states and was selected by the National Governors Association as a national best practice. While in Kentucky, she also completed her doctoral degree in educational leadership, while growing her reputation as an internationally respected expert in automotive, manufacturing and workforce education.

In 2013, she became the first woman and the first person of color to serve as President of South Central College, where her industry knowledge and broad higher education experience have helped build capacity to serve the college's students and the community. She has also served on a number of community, state, and national boards and committees. Locally, she has served on the Greater Mankato Growth and Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism boards. In Faribault, Dr. Parker participated in a meeting with the Japanese Consul General organized by the Minnesota Trade Office where she was able to highlight the college's workforce partnerships with Japanese-based Daikin Applied, which has manufacturing facilities in Faribault and Owatonna. In 2019, she was also invited to join a contingency of Faribault leaders visiting Japan to talk about current and future business opportunities. This visit provided valuable connections and information that contributed to the visit by the Governor and Faribault Officials to Japan for the 51st Joint Meeting of the Midwest-US-Japan Association.

On a national level, Dr. Parker was appointed to President Obama's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) Steering Committee 2.0 and co-chaired AMP's "Demand-Driven Workforce Development" work team. She has also served on the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors and currently serves on the National Academies of Science, 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), 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 (Chair), and Iowa-Minnesota Campus Compact.

Throughout her career, Dr. Parker has served as a civic-minded inspiration, particularly for minority and non-traditional students, demonstrating in her words and actions that education, combined with resiliency, can have a positive impact on the community as a whole.