

Biography

Deborah Curtis, Provost-Chief Learning Officer, University of Central Missouri



Dr. Curtis was appointed Provost-Chief Learning Office in July 2012. Under the UCM academic affairs structure, the Provost-Chief Learning Officer is responsible for all academic programs located in four academic colleges housing 25 academic departments; the James C. Kirkpatrick Library and Library Services; the Honors College and International Affairs; Student Experience and Engagement; Academic Programs and Services; Enrollment Management; Extended Studies; and the Office of Technology.

Dr. Curtis came to UCM from Illinois State University where she served as dean of the College of Education for seven years, and director of the Teacher Education Center for four years. She began her faculty career at Illinois State as an assistant professor in 1986 and was tenured and promoted to associate professor, and ultimately promoted to professor. During her fifteen year career as a university faculty member, Dr. Curtis taught undergraduate and graduate courses in middle level education, secondary education, and graduate coursework in supervision of instruction, curriculum and middle level education, as well as serving as a member of, or chairing, several dissertation committees.

Prior to beginning her career in higher education, Dr. Curtis served as a music specialist and coach in K-12 schools in Illinois and Indiana for ten years. She earned a B. M. in music education from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL, a M. S. in music from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, and a Ph.D. in curriculum & instruction with specializations in secondary education and supervision of instruction from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Throughout her career, Dr. Curtis has served her community and profession through engagement in a variety of service roles. Some of these include the Missouri Public Charter School Commission, Missouri Council of Chief Academic Officers with the Missouri Department of Higher Education, member of the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce, executive committee member of the Illinois State Action for Education Leadership Project, member of the United Way of McLean County Education Vision Council, member of the McLean County Community Compact, task force member for the Illinois School Leader Task Force, board member of the McLean County Urban League Satellite Office, board member of the National Network for Educational Renewal Governance Board, board member of the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board, Future Teachers of Chicago board member, board member for the Illinois Education Research Council, and member of the Professional Preparation & Certification Committee of the National Middle School Association (NMSA).

Deborah was born and raised in the Chicago area. Her husband Lynn is retired from his work as a K-12 educator, coach, principal, and superintendent of schools in Illinois. Deborah and Lynn have five grown children and nine grandchildren.