



MID-SOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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MSCC Names Learning Center in Honor of Retiring Executive Vice President

Mid-South Community College has named its Learning Success Center in honor of retiring Executive Vice President Dr. Barbara Baxter who has served the institution for more than 20 years.

“I have never worked with or for anyone that I more sincerely appreciated, respected, or loved than Barbara Baxter,” said MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter while announcing the recognition. “As far as I’m concerned, her continued impact on this campus remains nothing short of miraculous, and if we look back at all that has transpired here since she came, it is essentially impossible to do justice to the things that she personally is responsible for making happen.

“I have never known anyone more dedicated to the success of this institution. She



has always been focused on moving the college forward and making it better along the way.”

In addition to naming the LSC in her honor, the college also unveiled a plaque that will underscore her contribution to the institution.

“No expression from us would be sufficient, but nonetheless some of us have been committed for quite some time to make certain there is a permanent reminder on our campus of this truly amazingly talented and dedicated professional and an expression of



our great fortune for having enjoyed the blessing of her capacities and abilities for over two decades,” Dr. Fenter said.

“I can promise you this college would never have

gotten off the ground if not for Barbara and her efforts, so we welcome this opportunity to thank her for all that she’s done to turn this institution into what we all know as a beacon of hope.”

Dr. Baxter said the credit should not be hers alone.

“I did not really want this to happen because it’s not me, it’s you,” she said to fellow employees among the crowd at the recognition event. “I have worked a lot of places; this is my seventh career. I have never worked at a place as special as this one, and it’s because of the people who stand together here.

“We care about each other; we care about our students; we care what we look like, and we care how we act. For the last 21 years, that’s what has made me excited about coming to work. I have never not wanted to be here because we make a difference, not only to our students but to one another.”

Baxter, who worked at State Technical Institute in Memphis for almost a decade before moving across the Mississippi River, applied for Mid-South’s Chief Academic

Officer position on Jan. 31, 1994. She interviewed soon thereafter and began working at MSCC on March 14.

“She came that first day, and despite all the rationale that was clearly evident for taking herself back across the bridge, she stayed,” Dr. Fenter said. “And that, I think, is the beginning of a miracle. In fact, I consider Dr. Baxter’s employment at Mid-South Community College to be one of our most compelling examples of divine intervention.

“Through her two decades of remarkable contributions to this institution and the profound manner in which she has contributed to our efforts, she has touched thousands of lives.”

Baxter earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English at Memphis State University and later completed an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, Higher Education from MSU.

Prior to earning the master’s degree, Baxter served as co-owner of Baxter Construction Company in Memphis where she supervised residential and light commercial construction, performed cost accounting, sold real estate, and performed real estate appraisals.

In 1982, she became an English instructor at Memphis State and worked there until joining the instructional staff at State Tech in 1985. Baxter earned tenure in 1989 and later served in various capacities related to writing, academic/curriculum development, and the institution’s learning center.

“One would have never expected to find someone of Dr. Barbara Baxter’s caliber at Mid-South Community College at its beginning,” Dr. Fenter said. “Without her background, expertise, and investment in the accreditation process, this institution may, in fact, never have gotten off the ground.



“There was never a detail too small or an issue too complex for her not to tackle it with the same vigor and fervor. We can’t say ‘thank you’ enough for her great contributions to this community, our state, our region, and even the country.”

Baxter will officially retire on June 30, 2015.