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ASU Mid-South Hospitality Instructor Earns Excellence Award

Marjorie Gardner, ASU Mid-South Hospitality Management Lead Faculty, has been named a John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award winner by the League for Innovation in the Community College. The award celebrates outstanding contributions and leadership by two-year institution faculty and staff.

Gardner, in her first year at the college, will be acknowledged for her accomplishment in a series of League activities and promotions, and she will have the opportunity for further recognition at the 2016 Innovations Conference in Chicago in March.

Dr. Cliff Jones, ASU Mid-South Senior Vice Chancellor for Learning and Instruction, said Gardner's nomination received universal support.

"Since her arrival on our campus, Marjorie has worked diligently to support her students, classes, program, facility, adjuncts, staff, and teammates. Likewise, the program has received increasing community support and student enrollment as well as industry recognition. Her leadership, dedication and care have provided the framework for these successes, and we know the best is yet to come."

Pete Selden, ASU Mid-South Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Programs, described Gardner as a "blessing" to the college.

"With a relatively new program and new facility, Marjorie has given us everything we needed. Her dedication and patience throughout the process have been outstanding. Marjorie has high hopes for the program, as do we, and has demonstrated a willingness to jump in, roll up her sleeves, and get things done."



“It will be great to see how the program flourishes as a result of her leadership. Her ability to remain professional at all times and to make key connections in industry have resulted in significant and strategic partnerships. She has recruited guest chefs and other guest speakers to the classrooms, which has proven very beneficial to our students.”

Gardner said the award came as “more than a surprise. I am honored to be recognized and selected to receive this prestigious award. I am so blessed to be a part of the wonderful and highly supportive Arkansas State University Mid-South family!”

“This is like a dream to me. I am lost for words as I try to digest this recognition, but I look forward to my continued association with the college as we grow and strengthen the Hospitality Management program.”

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, Gardner developed an early interest in cooking, sewing, and teaching. After graduating from high school, she enrolled in Shortwood Teachers’ College and completed the education program. From there, she attended the University of Technology in Kingston and earned a bachelor’s degree in Home Economics with an emphasis in Food and Nutrition. She later earned a master’s degree in Food Studies and Food Management from New York University.

She enjoys sharing what she has learned. “Most of my life I’ve been teaching; it’s my passion.” Before coming to ASU Mid-South, Gardner taught for two years at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

The Roueche Excellence Award, established in 2012, celebrates outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff. Suanne D. and John E. Roueche, early proponents of the idea that teachers have major responsibility for how well students perform in the classroom, have been partners and friends of the League for Innovation for more than 35 years.

The League is an international organization dedicated to catalyzing the community college movement. It hosts conferences and institutes, develops Web resources, conducts research, produces publications, provides services, and leads projects and initiatives with member colleges, corporate partners, and other agencies in continuing efforts to make a positive difference for students and communities.

For information about ASU Mid-South’s Hospitality Management program or other life-changing education and training opportunities, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, contact Enrollment Services at (870) 733-6728 or admissions@midsouthcc.edu, or see the college’s website at www.asumidsouth.edu.