

Dr. JoAnn C. McDowell



Dr. JoAnn C. McDowell was born April 23, 1943.

She holds a Ph.D. from Kansas State University in Education and was named Alumni Fellow (Outstanding Alumna) from KSU in 1992. She holds an Ed.S., M.S., and B.S. from Pittsburg State University where she was named Outstanding Alumna in 1984 and received PSU's Meritorious Service Award (the most prestigious award PSU confers on alumnus) in May of 2005. McDowell also holds an A.A. degree from Independence Community College.

Dr. McDowell was the president of the University of Alaska Anchorage's Prince William Sound Community College from 1991 to 2005. She is the co-founder of the Valdez Theatre Conference (now the Last Frontier Theatre Conference). When she left Alaska, she was conferred the title of President Emeritus by the Alaska Board of Regents. Prior to her tenure in Alaska, she served in several senior administrative positions at Independence Community College from 1979 to 1992, including serving as president from 1988 to 1992. She served on the Kansas Board of Regents from 1989 to 1992. In 2005 she became the first female president at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska.

She received the Alaska Governor's Arts for Distinguished Cultural Service Award in 2003 and has been honored nationally by Phi Theta Kappa twice. Initially, in 2000 she received the Phi Theta Kappa Shirley B. Gordon Award at the national convention in Denver and again in 2005 when she received the Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented at the international convention in Dallas. In 2002, Dr. McDowell received the Contribution to Literacy in Alaska Award. Upon the occasion of her tenth year of employment in the University of Alaska system, the Dr. Jo Ann C. McDowell Theatre Scholarship was established at the University of Alaska Anchorage Theatre Department. It is conferred annually on a student majoring in theatre.

McDowell has founded two nationally prominent theatre conferences, the Edward Albee Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, Alaska which she founded in 1992 and the Edward Albee Great Plains Theatre Conference in Omaha, Nebraska which was inaugurated in May of 2006.