

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Mankato

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION 2019

Dr. Annette Parker

Dr. Annette Parker was born and raised in Michigan where she worked for General Motors and met and married her husband of 38 years, Jeffrey, with whom she shares three children. Annette and Jeffrey enjoyed successful careers at GM, until a decline in the auto industry led the family to make a decision that would forever change their lives. At age 28, Annette would start in the 2-year drafting program at Lansing Community College, while Jeffrey continued to work and help care for their children.

While at LCC, she became a lab assistant and discovered her passion for teaching and making a difference in the lives of her students. She then completed her bachelor's and master's degrees and became a full-time instructor and administrator. After 17 years at LCC, she accepted a leadership position with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System where she served for six years and completed her doctoral degree, 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. Throughout her career, she has served as an inspiration particularly for minority and non-traditional students, demonstrating in her words and actions the impact education, combined with resiliency, can make in your life and the lives of others.