



MAIR 2020-2021 President's Message



It has been a real honor to serve as president of the Mississippi Association for Institutional Research (MAIR) this past year, and it has certainly been quite a year. I could not be any prouder of my fellow MAIR members and officers.

Together, we moved our 2020 MAIR conference from in-person to a virtual format with only two weeks' notice, resulting in a great event of networking and learning.

This year, we are hosting our second virtual conference so be sure to mark your calendars for **Thursday, March 25**, and **Friday, March 26, 2021**. Some outstanding guest speakers have been invited and wonderful presentations have been planned. We would love for you to participate with us. Please be sure to cast your vote for officer slots and award nominations as well as complete the conference survey to ensure the ongoing success of this organization.

If there are ways MAIR can help you, please let us know. As the world is changing, we are adapting with it.

Thank you,
Tim Dedeaux

Previous Recipients of the Jim Nichols Service Award

- 2019-2020** Eric Atchison, Arkansas State University System (previously of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning)
- 2015-2016** Jim Hood, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
- 2014-2015** Mary Harrington, University of Mississippi
- 2013-2014** Rosemary Lamb, Coahoma Community College
- 2012-2013** Gwen Aldridge, Southwest Tennessee Community College (previously of Coahoma Community College)
- 2011-2012** Mitzy Johnson, Mississippi State University
- 2008-2009** Margie Hobbs, University of Mississippi
- 2007-2008** Joe Cliburn, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- 2006-2007** Jim Nichols, University of Mississippi

MAIR Jim Nichols Service Award

The **Jim Nichols Service Award** is the highest award presented to a current or former member of MAIR who has shown exemplary service and leadership to the organization. Dr. James O. (Jim) Nichols was employed as Director of University Planning and Institutional Research, and Assistant Professor of Higher Education at the University of Mississippi (UM), from January 1979 to October 2000. As Director, Dr. Nichols developed an on-going series of analytic studies concerning university academic operations and a highly participative planning process.

During his time at UM, Dr. Nichols also served as President of MAIR; President, Vice President and Program Chair, and member of the Executive Committee of SAIR; and Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the national AIR. Institutional effectiveness, which he helped define through assistance in writing of the original SACSCOC Resource Manual on Institutional Effectiveness and service on many visitation committees, became his primary area of professional endeavor. Dr. Nichols was best known through his six books co-authored with his wife, Karen, concerning enhancement of institutional effectiveness through improvement of student learning as well as administrative and educational services based upon outcomes assessment. These books published by Agathon Press sold over 65,000 copies and formed the basis for seminars and workshops attended by over 3,200 participants from 1989 to 2007. Jim and Karen assisted over 450 institutions of higher learning from every regional accrediting association in the United States. They also made requested presentations throughout Africa, Europe, New Zealand, and the Middle East. Dr. Nichols, father of four with ten grandchildren, retired to Memphis to be closer to them.

Current members may nominate deserving individuals for this award prior to the annual conference. Nominations are then forwarded to the standing President, who, as chair, forms a committee of two regular members, one from a two-year institution and one from a four-year institution (see MAIR Constitution and By-Laws for full criteria disclosure). This committee confidentially reviews all nominations and has the option of selecting an award recipient. Given its significance, the award is generally made at the annual conference but is not a requirement. Award recipients receive a plaque commemorating their distinction as well as have lifetime membership of the organization. Nominations for this year have been submitted, and the committee will present the award at the conference. Please be sure to initiate potential nominee considerations for this prestigious award to be submitted for the 2022 conference.



2021 MAIR Virtual Conference Tentative Presenters and Topics

Building a Robust Data-Informed Program Review Process

Doug Masterson, Senior Associate Provost
The University of Southern Mississippi
Annamarie Rice, HelioCampus

Inform/Consult/Collaborate/Enable: Stakeholder Engagement Frameworks and Empowerment

Kirstin Moreno, Education Manager and Assistant Professor
Oregon Health and Science University

Institutional Research/Effectiveness Offices: Providing Leadership for SACSCOC Accreditation

Denise Y. Young, Vice-President
SACSCOC

IR Professionals as Change Agents at their Institution

Carolyn Wiley, Associate Vice-President
Northwest Mississippi Community College

Navigating the Revised Substantive Change Policy

Kevin W. Sightler, Director of Substantive Change
SACSCOC

Resiliency in the Face of Covid-19: IR/IE Professionals Perspective

Suzanne Simpson, Assistant Provost
The University of Alabama at Huntsville
Eric Atchison, Vice-President for Strategic Research
Arkansas State University System

Using Student Feedback to Guide Continuous Quality Improvement

Lecretia Buckley, Education Quality Improvement Director
University of Mississippi School of Medicine

NOTICE **Pre-Conference Survey Response Due by March 9**

Dr. Kevin Sightler, Director of Substantive Change for SACSCOC, will present *Navigating the Revised Substantive Change Policy* at our annual meeting. He has offered to customize his presentation to include up to five topics that are a priority for our group. If you have an area of interest in the new Substantive Change Policy, complete the one question survey by **March 9** at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MAIRTopics_KevinSightler. Tune in **Thursday, March 25**, to hear his responses.

2021 MAIR Virtual Conference March 25 – 26

Registration and conference information is available at <https://www.mair-ms.org/conference>.

Cost is \$50, including a one-year **MAIR** membership.

Send **conference registration form** via check made payable to **MAIR** to Chrisa Mansell, Director of IREP, Delta State University, 1003 W Sunflower Rd, KWH 236, Cleveland, MS 38733 or pay online using the PayPal function.

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MAIR 2020-2021 Past President's Message



As I complete my term as officer in MAIR, I want to thank the membership for the honor of serving these past four years. The framers of the MAIR Constitution wisely positioned the same individual to serve as vice president, president, and then past president. It provides continuity and perspective. As past president this year, I have enjoyed observing this process.

I have been privileged to serve with stellar Executive Committees. Their commitment to MAIR and willingness to work to provide structure for the organization and successful annual meetings was remarkable. The productivity and innovation by these groups are noteworthy. The selection of the location of the next meeting was moved up so that the location could be announced at the current year's meeting. Webinars were added for year-round professional development for members. The poster sessions were an important tool to encourage members to spread their wings and grow. The pivot last year to a virtual meeting with less than two weeks before the annual meeting was phenomenal! It was novel at the time, but the "zoom" meeting has become commonplace, and MAIR was a leader in that movement. I appreciate the work the officers expended to make all of this happen. These accomplishments will position MAIR for continued success.

If you are asked to or if you are interested in serving as an officer, please step up. Serving MAIR is an excellent opportunity for personal growth. Don't forget, there are many ways to serve even if you are not an officer. If you have an interest in being more involved, check in with Tim Dedeaux or Ken Thompson, and they will find a way to plug you in. We always need help. I learn so much from working with members, and it is rewarding to get to know more comrades across the state.

Chairing this year's nominating committee is one of my last official responsibilities. Because we have an excellent state of candidates, I am excited about the future of MAIR. All of these fine nominees will carry on the traditions of MAIR, but they will need everyone's help. MAIR has a track record of providing information to colleagues throughout the state; enhancing collaboration among members; and providing professional development and growth opportunities. I look forward to continuing to be a part of this process and see the growth of MAIR and the members the organization serves.

Thank you again for the pleasure of serving with you.

Mitzi Norris

MAIR Members in Action

January 2021

Katie Busby and Margaret Walden, University of Mississippi
Action: *Data Governance* webinar

October 2020

Ken Thompson, Millsaps College
Action: *A New Tool-PSPP: An Introduction to Free Statistical Software and Demonstration of How to Do Analysis* webinar

September 2020

Carley Dear, Debbie Norris, Rilla Jones, and Mitzi Norris,
University Medical Center
Action: *Preparing for Accreditation: Is There One in Your Future and Preparing for Accreditation: Presenting Your Case for Accreditation Compliance* presentations at SAIR

May 2020

Diann Nichols, Itawamba Community College
Action: *Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy*

2019-2020

Amy Cappleman, Itawamba Community College
Action: *2020 SACSCOC Annual Meeting Planning Committee member*

MAIR 2020-2021 Officers

Timothy Dedeaux, **President**
Pearl River Community College

Kenneth Thompson, **Vice-President**
Millsaps College

Mitzi Norris, **Past-President**
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Stephanie Diffey, **Secretary**
Holmes Community College

Chrisa Mansell, **Treasurer/Web Team**
Delta State University

Tracey Baham, **Member-at-Large**
Mississippi State University

Diann Nichols, **Member-at-Large**
Itawamba Community College

Amber Nelms, **Web Team**
Northeast Mississippi Community College