



Emerging Better... Together

2022 CONFERENCE RECAP

On Thursday, March 24, 2022, MAIR members emerged from their offices, whether on campus or at home, to convene at the BancorpSouth Conference Center in Tupelo. It was the first time they'd met face to face since 2019. Over the two days, members heard presentations from Dr. Carlena Benjamin (NEMCC), Dr. Carley Dear (UMMC), Dr. Amber Nelms (NEMCC), Dr. Carolyn Wiley (NWMCC), Dr. Mitzi Norris (UMMC), and Dr. Kelli Hefner (NEMCC), which connected the theme of data being about relationships.

At the end of day one, participants met at Harvey's Restaurant for a dinner. This was a change from the usual reception; however, participants overwhelmingly expressed that they felt it was a positive change to the conference agenda.

MAIR membership elected new officers: Ms. Chisa Mansell (DSU) - Vice President; Dr. Kelli Hefner (NEMCC) - Secretary; Ms. Diann Nichols (ICC) - Treasurer; Dr. LaDonna Eanochs (ASU) - member at large; Ms. Melanie Davis (PRCC) - member at large.

In 2019, MAIR decided to discontinue door prizes, and instead donate that money to a non-profit in the city of the conference. This year, MAIR leadership chose the Hunger Coalition of NE MS, and they also decided to match any member donations; therefore, at the luncheon, Dr. Kelli Hefner presented a check for \$1050.00 to Mr. Jason Martin, Director of Hunger Coalition. He explained that MAIR's donation will have the "buy-ability" of \$10,000.00

Special thanks to Nuventive for serving as a Bronze Sponsor for the conference.



GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As your president, I am committed to making this a great year for us in MAIR. We have all made it through some challenging times, and while those challenges will still come our way, I encourage you to join with a group of professionals who stand together and support one another through it all.

The work that we do in Institutional Research and Effectiveness is critical to the operations within all of our institutions. Doing this work is not always easy but doing it together, as a team across the state, makes it easier and stronger.

If you have not joined MAIR yet this year, I encourage you to do so. The executive board is going to hit the new year running- we are seeking presenters for webinars now, which we hope to offer on a very regular basis. Members will have full access to each and every one at no cost. Along with that, you will receive a discounted rate for our 2023 Conference in Gulfport, MS and access to the members-only Listserv.

Please reach out to me anytime with questions, concerns, or ideas for topics that would be helpful to you. My email address is afnelms@nemcc.edu.

Dr. Amber Nelms
Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Northeast Mississippi Community College



Thank you to outgoing officers:
Dr. Tim Dedeaux, Past President
Ms. Cecelia King, Secretary
Dr. Adam Swanson, member at large
Ms. Demetria White, member at large





MAIR WEBINAR

April 12, 2022 at 11 am

FREE FOR MEMBERS

\$50 FOR NON-MEMBERS

SPECIAL OFFER

*FREE MAIR MEMBERSHIP WITH
WEBINAR REGISTRATION*

Presenter: Dr. Timothy Dedeaux

Topic: Free, Open-Source, and
Low Cost Statistical Software

Why pay thousands of dollars for a single-user license when there are so many high-quality, low (or no) cost statistical applications available? This webinar will introduce you to seven powerful alternatives, with an overview of their strengths and weaknesses.

Click [HERE](#) to Register

MAIR will be offering a monthly webinar for all members. If you are not a member, contact Diann Nichols at dmnichols@iccms.edu to sign up for membership today.



Are you headed to Phoenix? **AIR Forum** will be June 6-9, 2022 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Register online at airweb.org/forum/2022/home. Regular registration runs thru May 5. If you are going, let us know! Email kehefner@nemcc.edu, and we'll try to get together for a lunch or dinner.



What does your IR office look like? NEMCC is a two woman show. Take a picture of your team (or just YOU, if you do it ALL) and email it to kehefner@nemcc.edu. You will see them in a future newsletter.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The following Individuals were honored at the conference luncheon.

Dr. Carley Dear, the Unsung Hero Award, which is awarded to a current MAIR member outside of the Executive Committee in order to show appreciation for their contributions to the organization.

Dr. Carolyn Wiley, Best Presentation 2021 -- IR Professionals as Change Agents at their Institution (automatically accepted for AIR's conference program list).

Dr. Carolyn Wiley, the Jim Nichols Service Award, which is highest award presented to a current or former member of MAIR who has shown exemplary service and leadership to the organization.



Mark your calendars -- **MAIR 2023** -- March 22-24 -- Gulfport



A WORD FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

This year, I had the honor and the pleasure to serve MAIR as president as we emerge from the pandemic. The theme of our conference was Emerging Stronger...Together. It was purposeful that the executive committee included "together" in the conference title, for not only did we emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever, we had each other to help us along the way. We did it together. MAIR is an organization that continues to amaze me with the closeness of its members. Throughout the pandemic our members have looked to one another for support and to offer support, but it was even more apparent to me while serving as president this past year. As we progressed through the year, I could not have made it without my executive committee colleagues. I want to thank each of them, and especially Tim for his wise guidance as immediate past-president.

Reverting to an in-person conference brought its own set of challenges throughout the year, beginning with the decision whether to have an in-person conference or another virtual conference. The executive committee and I deliberated on the right call, and in the end, I'm convinced we made the right call to return to an in-person conference. As the conference neared, I could feel the excitement in the air as colleagues began to realize they were about to see some friends and colleagues for the first time in three years. During this time, I received calls, texts, and emails offering support for the conference and to MAIR in general. As I sit back and think about what this selflessness means, it humbles me to be a part of such a phenomenal organization.

Looking optimistically to our continued growth and to your ongoing friendship,
Ken
MAIR Immediate Past President
2022-2023



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MAIR IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT CONTINUES TO AMAZE ME WITH THE CLOSENESS OF ITS MEMBERS.

-MR. KEN THOMPSON, MAIR PAST-PRESIDENT

