

Marie Gardner, Ed.D., Campus Director, Matanuska-Susitna College

Marie Gardner, Ed.D., is UAA campus director for Matanuska-Susitna College, having served in the role since August 2023. As campus director, Gardner oversees all aspects of the campus's administration, academic programs, and community outreach initiatives. Dr. Gardner has over 30 years of experience in education and more than 15 years of experience as a higher education leader, including specific expertise leading online and extension campuses. Gardner is a collaborative leader with a strong student-centered approach to higher education.

Prior to coming to Mat-Su College, she served as dean for the Ottawa and Online Campuses at Neosho County Community College (NCCC) in Ottawa, Kansas. Gardner started her career with NCCC as an adjunct faculty member, later becoming a full-time tenured faculty member and then moving into administrative positions. Prior to Neosho, Gardner taught mathematics and computer classes at a local high school for 11 years. Gardner has taught both traditional face-to-face classes and in the online environment. Throughout her career, she has blended her love of teaching and her abilities to integrate technology in the classroom.

Gardner's previous administrative responsibilities have included leading a branch campus as well as overseeing the online campus during a time of substantial growth. Under her leadership, the institution developed online and hybrid courses, provided training for instructors in educational technologies and the learning management system, ensured all student services were provided in the online environment, and re-organized and re-branded the learning management software and college portal. Gardner co-chaired the institutional accreditation committee, served on the Core Emergency Response Team (a response to the COVID-19 pandemic), and chaired a college-wide committee whose function was to discuss data and processes and identify methods to improve efficiencies across the college.

Gardner holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Baker University and a master's degree in education with a concentration in mathematics from the University of Kansas. She earned a graduate certificate in community college leadership and a Doctor of Education in educational studies and educational leadership in higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.