

Hall of Fame



Joy McDaniel, 2023 OACC Hall of Fame

Joy McDaniel became the 20th President of Murray State College in 2011 and the first female president of a two-year institution in the state of Oklahoma. She worked in Oklahoma higher education for more than 30 years, starting as a Business Management faculty and program chair and moving to Vice President for Administration and Finance, a position she held for 17 years prior to her presidency. She served in multiple leadership positions including chair of Oklahoma's Two-Year Council of Presidents and a member of the Oklahoma Governor's Council on Education.

Her education pedigree includes degrees from Oklahoma State University, the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, and the University of Central Oklahoma, with post-graduate work at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

During her time at Murray State, the institution experienced record enrollment growth. McDaniel worked diligently as a leader to ensure fiscal responsibility, keeping costs for students as low as possible while maintaining a healthy reserve balance. She led the charge of acquiring the University Center of Southern Oklahoma, now Murray State College in Ardmore. McDaniel also oversaw the expansion of the Allied Health building and construction of a new Agriculture and Science building on the Tishomingo campus. Her vision brought about the creation of the Murray on Main retail stores in Ardmore and Tishomingo, providing auxiliary revenue for the institution and valuable internships for college students.

McDaniel married Doug Aldridge in 2019. She was honored with Emeritus status in 2021 when she retired. An endowment has been created at the Murray State College Foundation to honor her service to the institution and commitment to students who wish to pursue their educational goals.