



Dr. Arms, AFT Missouri, AFL-CIO

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News Release: “AFT Missouri Announces Newly Elected President Dr. Arms”



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AFT-Missouri today announced it has a newly elected President, Dr. Anitra D. Arms from the St. Louis Public School (SLPS) system. She has been an educator with the St. Louis Public Schools and a member of American Federation of Teachers St. Louis, Local 420 for over 20 years. Throughout her career she has touched the lives of many people; students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Dr. Arms holds several positions within AFT. She serves as the AFT Labor Management Professional Development Liaison for Local 420 and SLPS. In 2011, Dr. Arms was elected as Vice President of Professional Issues for AFT St. Louis, Local 420 where she is serving the second of two four years terms. Under her leadership as Vice President of Professional Issues, she has organized professional development sessions, conferences and scholarships for educators, and is responsible for creating and implementing the Train the Trainer Model for instructional leaders at both the district and local level. Dr. Arms also represents the state of Missouri as a member of AFT’s National Program and Policy Council in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Arms earned her doctoral degree from Saint Louis University in 2016. She is married to Russell T. Arms, Jr, and the mother of two daughters (Briah 22 and Aniah 14). Having a great love for children and being an award winning teacher, Dr. Arms comes from a long line of exceptional educators who believe in equity and excellence in education. After moving to St. Louis from San Diego after her father’s naval retirement, her mother began teaching. “I watched my mother for over twenty six years meticulously prepare lessons for her students. So, I decided forgo Law School at Saint Louis University and instead attend Harris-Stowe State College to become a teacher also. I only applied to teach with the St. Louis Public School district so I could give back to my community,” said Dr. Arms.

“Dr. Arms has the knowledge, skills, and expertise to lead the AFT-Missouri team. She brings experience in a variety of areas that will better assist us in solving problems that face public education and public service,” said Andrea Flinders, President of the Kansas City Federation of Teachers & School Related Personnel.

AFT-Missouri, a union of professionals, is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO. AFT-Missouri represents educational and public employees and supports its members and leaders by providing professional leadership, organizing, legislative/political involvement, contractual support, and member servicing. AFT-Missouri is governed by an elected member governing body.

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