President’s Award for Leadership

Gary L. Ebersole, Ph.D.
University of Missouri-Kansas City

Since joining UMKC in 1996, Dr. Ebersole’s passion has been to establish and strengthen shared governance on the UMKC campus. He has served on almost every committee ranging from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee to serving two terms on the steering committee for UMKC’s 10-year reaccreditation.

Often characterized as deeply principled and fair-minded, Dr. Ebersole has not been one to shy away from controversial—yet important—issues. He is committed to a community and its health in a way that makes leadership a way of life.

As one colleague noted, “Leadership comes from the ability to reach beyond supporters in conceiving of change and in acting upon it; and from the ability to imagine the steps toward change even when no staircase is apparent. Leadership comes, too, in the moments when others make new ideas their own and are empowered and guided both to act and to envision beyond their original author. In these ways I can express, and in many I cannot, Gary Ebersole is a leader.”