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**MVC NAMES DIRECTOR FOR MVC SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

*MVC accepting applications for the nursing program, which begins Fall 2009.*

**Marshall, Mo.** (December 22, 2008)—Dr. Earl Wellborn, Missouri Valley College chief academic officer, announced today that Tonya Eddy will serve as the director of the MVC School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Eddy will take on the role immediately.

“I am so pleased to have Tonya joining the MVC family,” said Bonnie Humphrey, MVC president. “Her experience in nursing education makes her a tremendous asset to the institution and the perfect candidate to direct the MVC School of Nursing and Health Sciences.”

Eddy has nearly 20 years of experience in the nursing and health field. Most recently she has served as program coordinator of the R.N. to B.S.N. program at the University of Missouri-Columbia Sinclair School of Nursing since December 2006. She has also been a nurse educator at UM-C since August 2004.

Eddy will complete her coursework for a Ph.D. in nursing in May 2009 with an anticipated graduation in May 2011. She holds a master’s of science in nursing and a baccalaureate degree in nursing from UM-C, and an associate’s degree in nursing from State Fair Community College.

“Mrs. Eddy brings a significant amount of practical and administrative experience in nursing education to the newly created position of Nursing Education Program Director at Missouri Valley College,” Wellborn said. “She is a great addition to the faculty and will be an excellent steward for this program.”

The application process for the program is currently underway and the bachelor’s of science in nursing degree program is slated to begin in Fall 2009.

“I can’t wait to design the new school of nursing,” Eddy said. “To have the opportunity to design something from the ground up like this is so exciting! I’ve been touring nursing labs to obtain the best and worst of each. I hope to have a college of nursing in which any faculty member would be proud to work.”

The MVC School of Nursing and Health Sciences will be housed in the lower level of the Buckner Wellness Center on the Fitzgibbon Hospital campus.

“I have lived in the Marshall community for 15 years and I have a vested interest not only as a faculty member, but as a member of the community and the nursing profession to see this project succeed,” Eddy said. “I have worked with the administration at Fitzgibbon for several years and we work well together. With the support Fitzgibbon Hospital is giving us, this relationship is crucial.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Missouri is currently experiencing a 9.5% nursing shortage and this is expected to increase three-fold by 2020 following national trends. In rural areas of Missouri, the nursing shortages are as high as 17%.

“I feel this is a great opportunity to become more involved in my home community and meet a growing need in health care at the same time,” Eddy said. “We have all heard about the nursing shortage and colleges of nursing are accepting applicants and educating nurses to their full capacity and the shortage is still growing. I know this will be a huge challenge, but I have been extremely impressed with the support from the community and the College.”

For information about admissions requirements and the enrollment process, contact the MVC admissions office at (660) 831-4157 or [admissions@moval.edu](mailto:admissions@moval.edu). For information about faculty positions in the MVC School of Nursing and Health Sciences, contact Tonya Eddy at [eddyt@moval.edu](mailto:eddyt@moval.edu).

#### **ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE**

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 28 majors, 7 pre-professional programs, associate degree programs, and certificate programs. The legendary Viking athletic program consists of 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit [www.moval.edu](http://www.moval.edu).

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