

SWECJMC

Southwest Education Council for Journalism & Mass Communication

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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NEW VICE PRESIDENT ON BOARD

January 10, 2018 – Dr. Shearon Roberts has been named the new vice president for the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication (SWECJMC). She will be in charge of the research paper competition for the organization’s yearly fall conference, being held this year at the Metropolitan State University of Denver on November 2-3. Her appointment will last a year, after which she will take over the president position from Dr. Liza P. Benedict, who will remain on the organization’s board. SWECJMC appoints a new vice president on an annual basis.

Roberts is an assistant professor of mass communication at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana. She began her career as a local reporter for national news outlets and then worked as a correspondent covering Latin America and the Caribbean. Her reports from the region informed her research on how the region is covered and on the evolution of journalism throughout the Americas. She was one of the first scholars to work directly with Haitian journalists immediately after the 2010 earthquake on their work in the wake of that disaster.

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Benedict, a dedicated member of SWECJMC, said she is extremely pleased to pass the torch of leadership for the Council on to Roberts, a colleague who was active while she was vice president. “Dr. Roberts came highly recommended for this position given her contributions to the annual conference in past years, particularly as a judge for papers. She is familiar with the planning process for SWECJMC and has recently demonstrated her leadership in organizing major academic conferences as the local conference chair for the 2017 Haitian Studies Association conference held in New Orleans at Tulane and Xavier universities. I am quite confident that she will continue to be a resourceful colleague in her new role as vice president and subsequently as president.”

As an assistant professor at a small, historically black university, Roberts is looking forward to meeting other faculty in her field through this position. “SWECJMC is an important space for mass communication and journalism faculty within a shared region to collaborate and develop both scholarly and institutional connections. The organization provides the opportunity for colleagues at both small and large programs to network and share our important work.”

The purpose of the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication is to promote the recognition, welfare and progress of journalism and mass communication education in the Southwest part of the United States. Members of SWECJMC include dues-paying journalism and mass communications programs in institutions of higher education offering the baccalaureate degree in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. SWECJMC is an affiliate of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

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