

# NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL EMLE 2019

## Yvonne Jo Harris

Jo Harris retired at the end of 2012 after 34+ years working for the YMCA. Jo started her career in Dallas in 1978 then worked at the Detroit Y for 9 years returning to Dallas in 1987. Jo held several positions during her YMCA career, starting out as a non-exempt administrative assistant and worked her way up to becoming Vice President-Operations before accepting a position with the YMCA of the USA.

Prior to stumbling into the Y, Jo taught elementary music in the El Dorado, Arkansas school district. Jo holds a Masters of Human Resources and Training from Amber (now Amberton) University in Garland, TX and Bachelor of Music Education from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas.



For more than 20 years, Jo was actively involved in AYP (Association of Y Professionals) serving on the AYP National Board as the Chair of the Leadership Development Committee and director of the AYP Choir at AYP's national conferences. She was also on the board of the AYP Red River Chapter that serves Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

In March 2004, Jo became the Director of Community and Movement Leadership for the YMCA of the USA. In July 2008, Jo became a specialist with the MSPS Department at YUSA and her work focused mainly on working with staff and volunteers from YMCAs in under-resourced, low income communities.

Jo is most proud of being part of the staff team that developed MEDI and served as a coach in MEDI and a mentor in MMP during the last 8 years of her career.

Since retiring in 2012, Jo has continued to mentor and coach Y staff across the country. She currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the board of Harmony Community Development Corporation. Jo is also a facilitator with Bible Study Fellowship International, Costume Coordinator for her church's drama ministry, and director of the 100+ voices of her church's children's choir and chairs the annual Jubilee Children's Dance Festival that involves over 800 children dancers each year. In her spare time she teaches piano, loves to travel, shop and entertain family and friends.

