

# ***Welma Redd***

## **MPPD Chair Statement of Interest**



*Nelson Mandela Center, South Africa (2006)*

Shortly after Dr. Baruti Kopano resigned as Chair of the Multiplatform Production Department (MPPD), I considered applying for the position, but first had to find answers to a few questions.

*1. Why am I interested in Chairing MPPD?* Over the years, I have observed and participated in the running of the Department and realized that it is a position that I have supported in many ways. I have observed individual exceptional skills that each Chair brings their

departments: One Chair seemed to acknowledge little acts into becoming award-winning achievement; Another Chair had an uncanny ability to raise funds; and yet another would design workarounds to solve the most intractable problems. I learned something from each of these administrative strengths along the way. For me, the key is to inspire people to work together, identify the problems and share ideas to solve them. We all have answers.

*2. What else do I need to learn?* Knowing that I must be orientated in all spheres of MPPD, I researched articles, books, videos, and other resources about how to be an effective, efficient and productive department chair. I found some useful nuggets on management, in general, and a specific article on how to develop effective academic leadership and management skills, by Henry L. Roediger III's: "[Twelve Tips for Department Chairs](#)," published in the *Academic observer online* (September, 2014).

*3. What uniqueness do I bring?* My practice of *authenticity with respect* may not be utterly unique, but it keeps me present in a relaxed way. I will also be one of the few in the MPPD with an institutional memory of 17 years.

Yet, my primary interest in becoming MPPD Chair is to draw on the strengths of the MPPD family and steer "students on a path of self-discovery, enabling them to find their innate talents as great storytellers," skilled producers and professional media personnel" for tomorrow.

*Welma Redd*