# New Leadership Takes the Helm of the ARCC

***What’s Happening at the ARCC?***For the past year, the ARCC leadership team has prepared for the seamless succession that will take place on October 1 as Dr. Sharon Harsh steps out of her role as Director. The ARCC will continue to benefit from Dr. Harsh’s expertise and insight, however, as she moves into her new role as a technical assistance (TA) specialist for capacity building, providing assistance to state boards of education in the region and serving as senior advisor to the new ARCC leadership team.

On October 1, Dr. Caitlin Howley assumes leadership as Director of the ARCC, with Dr. Kimberly Hambrick as Associate Director. Dr. Howley will be responsible for the design and operation of the center, oversight of technical assistance initiatives, supervision and professional development of staff, and stewardship of center resources. She will also provide TA to state education agencies (SEAs) through regional initiatives and serve as the leadership liaison to the ARCC Tennessee and West Virginia teams. As Associate Director, Dr. Hambrick will conduct day-to-day management of the ARCC, oversee and provide TA, assist with staff supervision and professional development, and lead quality assurance efforts. In addition, she will serve as the leadership liaison to the ARCC Kentucky and Virginia teams.

***What’s Next for the ARCC****?* Together, Drs. Howley and Hambrick look forward to continuing the ARCC tradition of responsive and meaningful TA to the region’s SEAs.

“State education agencies in this region are engaged in truly important work,” declares Dr. Howley. “And I feel so privileged to support the ARCC’s great team of thoughtful, energetic TA staff who are so committed to helping states as they move forward with this work— helping struggling schools to find their footing, devising new ways to support the professional growth of teachers and principals, figuring out how to prepare students for adulthood, whether for entry to the workforce or to postsecondary studies—and more.”

Dr. Hambrick emphasizes the strengths of the ARCC team: “The ARCC staff have strong relationships in the region and really understand the needs of SEAs. I look forward to working with them as they continue to support the capacity of SEA staff to advance their reforms.”

***More about Caitlin Howley****.* Dr. Howley served as Associate Director of the ARCC since 2012, and previously from 2007 to 2009. With nearly 20 years of TA, program evaluation, and research experience, Howley has expertise in rural education, college access and success, support for at-risk students, and organizational capacity building. She also provides technical assistance to the Rural College Readiness Research Alliance of the Regional Educational Laboratory Mid-Atlantic. In previous roles, she directed evaluations of an array of technical assistance centers, including regional Comprehensive Centers, and led evaluations of programs for low-income, minority, and Appalachian youth. Her work has been honored by the American Educational Research Association and the National Rural Education Association. Howley received her Ph.D. from Temple University with a specialization in the sociology of education.

***More about Kimberly Hambrick*.** Dr. Hambrick has recently served as the Principal in Charge of the ARCC. In this role, she liaised between the center and its parent organization, ICF, to ensure technical quality and facilitate access to corporate resources to support center success. Dr. Hambrick has more than 24 years of experience in TA, program evaluation, and research. She possesses extensive knowledge of program management at federal, state, and local levels, and has directed evaluation of numerous large federal contracts. In earlier capacities, Hambrick served as the Task Lead of needs assessment, coordination, and cross-center collaboration for the REL Mid-Atlantic; directed the Appalachia Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Consortium; led evaluation of the Region IV Comprehensive Center; and conducted evaluation for the Appalachia Regional Educational Laboratory. Her work has been honored by the National Rural Education Association and District Administration Magazine for a Districts’ Choice Top 100 Products Award. She earned her Ph.D. from Capella University.