

## **Welcoming Monica Mitchell!**

*"It is a pleasure to be back working with colleagues from ARCC and state departments of education in our four-state region." – Monica Mitchell*

Ms. Mitchell has over 20 years of experience in education—including technical assistance and program improvement, research analysis, and classroom teaching. Her career focus began with Peace Corps service in Uganda, helping develop environmental education activities and ecotourism at a crater lake conservation center. Upon returning to the U.S., she worked with the Appalachia Educational Laboratory to develop partnerships within the region between schools and informal science centers. She went on to serve as a program officer at the National Academies' Center for Education, working on projects related to cross-cultural comparative studies and human capital investment. Her passion for serving at-risk student populations led her back to educational technical assistance, working with state departments of education on program improvement for migrant farmworker and homeless youth. She is delighted to be back working with the Kentucky Department of Education focusing on chronic absenteeism. In her capacity as an on-call education specialist with the ARCC, she brings expertise in needs assessment, service delivery, and evaluation. Her technical writing background will support the development of communications materials and reporting to help serve the children in our region.

Ms. Mitchell currently resides in northern Virginia with her twins. She still shares her love of informal learning with her children. When not exploring museums and science centers, she can be found outdoors watching soccer or walking in the woods. Her latest "lifelong learner" pursuits include weaving and eco-art.