

## **ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO**

r. Deborah De Sousa Owens is a fresh voice in the national education debate. She is a passionate educator and an advocate for underprivileged young people. From her early



days of teaching children in church to later helping underprivileged college students and finally to teaching and administrative roles in public education, her

focus has always been on helping young people realize their potential.



Dr. Owens, who holds a doctorate degree in education from V a n d e r b i l t U n i v e r s i t y, advocates a p r a g m a t i c approach to a d d r e s s i n g the problems

of urban education. She is fond of saying, "If it works, I'm for it. I don't care who gets the cred-

Dr. Owens and her husband, Rev. William Owens travel extensively promoting their vision: An American education system that inspires, educates and empowers the whole child with help from parents, teachers, churches and members of the community.

Dr. Owens is an author, lecturer, and education consultant. If you have comments or questions for her, or would like to discuss her availability for speaking engagements, please call her at 901-789-1173, or email her at dbowens@missioneducation.org. it as long as the children get the benefit."

Dr. Owens has a background that includes work in business and non-profit organizations in addition to education. She has an undergraduate degree in business and worked at several major New York ad agencies. She also managed a nonprofit organization providing scholarships to disadvantaged students before working as both a teacher and a school administrator.

Dr. Owens believes there are two critical components missing in most conversations around education reform: families and communities. As such, Education for All has launched a new initiative called Mission: Education. Her focus is to help remove non-academic barriers to student success by developing strategic partnerships with church-

es, community organizations, local education agencies, and vital child w e l f a r e agencies.