



NAME: Freda Deskin

TITLE: Founder & CEO

BUSINESS: ASTEC Charter School

STUDENT: Teddy Gacinya

Dr. Deskin is a nationally recognized educational consultant, known for her expertise in innovative, multidisciplinary curriculum and instruction. Dr. Deskin earned a B.A. from the University of Central Oklahoma and a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Deskin is listed as one of "The Five Best Known Graduates" from the University of Oklahoma and has been a leader and pioneer in education for more than 35 years. Dr. Deskin served as Coordinator of Special Projects for the Oklahoma State Department of Education and on the Oklahoma Curriculum Improvement Commission.

Dr. Deskin has founded several well-known educational programs in Oklahoma including: the "Oklahoma Odyssey of the Mind; the International Aerospace Academy; the first "ropes courses" at both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University and co-founded For Youth Initiatives, a foundation that focuses on dropout prevention in Oklahoma.

Some of her numerous awards include: finalist in NASA's "Teacher in Space" Project, becoming one of only 100 individuals in the world with the official title of "U.S. Space Ambassador."; 1996 Redlands Council of the Girl Scouts "Woman of the Year"; 2007 "Women in Aerospace" inductee; 2006 & 2008 Journal Record "50 Making a Difference" and Women in Communication "By-liner Award".

Dr. Deskin is a member of the National and State "Women President's Organization" (WPO), International Women's Forum and serves on the State Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Advisory Panel. She is a board member and chair of the education committee for Red Earth and is president of For Youth Initiative (FYI). Dr. Deskin is a graduate of Leadership Norman and Leadership Oklahoma.