

# Freda Deskin, Ph.D.

## CEO/Founder

Freda Deskin is an award-winning educator with over 4 decades of experience as a veteran teacher in rural, suburban, and inner-city schools throughout Oklahoma. She is a sought-after public speaker on the topics of leadership and education.

Dr. Deskin taught at the University of Oklahoma College of Education, where she was honored with the Career Achievement Award in 2010. She was the founding dean of STEM education at Oklahoma City University before starting ASTEC Charter Schools, where she has served as Superintendent and CEO.

Out of necessity, Dr. Deskin began working when she was 13 years old and continued working while earning three degrees and additional post-doctoral studies while raising a family.

Dr. Deskin earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Central Oklahoma, where she was named a "Distinguished Scholar", a master's degree in secondary education, and a Ph.D. in instructional leadership and academic curriculum from the University of Oklahoma, where she was named a "National Collegiate All-American."

Dr. Deskin holds a certificate in strategic school management from Harvard University and has completed post-graduate work in international finance at Oklahoma City University (OCU). She has more than 2500 hours of training in the aerospace sciences.

While teaching in Pauls Valley, Dr. Deskin was selected from a field of more than 11,000 applicants to become a national finalist in NASA's "Teacher-in-Space" project and to train with NASA as an astronaut. The shuttle mission associated with this program claimed the lives of teacher Christa McAuliffe and the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger.

After returning to Oklahoma, Dr. Deskin founded the Oklahoma Aerospace Academy summer space camps, where tens of thousands of students were introduced to STEM subjects for 26 summers. Her contributions earned her a place in the National Women in Aerospace Hall of Fame. She is the founder of the Oklahoma Odyssey of the Mind, the OU and OSU ropes leadership courses, and is the co-founder of FYI, a dropout awareness program.

Dr. Deskin has assessed standards for other states and has developed curricula, guides, and books for national organizations such as the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, NASA, the American Institute of Architects, Disney's EPCOT Center, and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), among others.

In addition, Dr. Deskin trained teachers in almost every state. She has been featured in a number of national publications, including Education Week; she has also appeared in various educational videos. Dr. Deskin has been honored numerous times at every level for her teaching, leadership and civic contributions by more organizations than can be mentioned.

Dr. Deskin is a graduate of Leadership Norman, Leadership Oklahoma City, and is a lifetime member of Leadership Oklahoma, where her classmates selected her as Class Ambassador.

Dr. Deskin holds membership in a number of organizations, including the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Rotary International, the National "Women Presidents Organization" (WPO), and the International Women's Forum. She has served on a number of non-profit boards, has chaired the education committee for the Red Earth, and is currently the education chair for the Annie Oakley Society of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Center and the United Way of Central Oklahoma Allocation Committee. She is on the University of Central Oklahoma Foundation board of trustees.

Dr. Deskin was selected three times for The Journal Record's "50 Making A Difference" award, which placed her in their "Circle of Excellence." She received the Marita Hynes Award for her contributions to young women in sports, the "By-liner Award" from Women in Communications, the "Women in the News" award by the Oklahoma City Hospitality Association was named "Woman of the Year" by the Girl Scouts. Dr. Deskin was selected by Dr. Oz's organization for the Yvette and Joel Mallah Crystal Heart Apple Award for community service in the area of school administration and support.

A true champion for children, Dr. Deskin was a runner-up in 2012 for the prestigious Brock International Prize in Education and is a member of the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame.

