



DARLENE MARSHALL-SMITH

Darlene holds a bachelor's degree in Speech and Interpersonal Communications from the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio; a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ; and Master of Divinity degree from the Iliff School of Theology from the University of Denver, in Denver, Co. Darlene is education driven and have received multiple recognitions and awards leading diverse teams to successful ventures achieving their desired goals. Darlene is a life member is a number of National organizations supporting local communities in Rockdale supporting not only education, but other key initiatives supporting our communities.

Darlene is a retired AT&T Global Assurance Director with 42 years of experience, of which she spent 32 years managing a specialty global team outside of the US around the world negotiating with international carriers' executives to restore service for AT&T's fortune 500-million-dollar customers expeditiously. Darlene understood the importance of education and continuous excellence in education was key to soaring to make concise decisions representing AT&T developing processes, policies and agreements to govern her department, and other international carriers'.

As a board member of Rockdale County Schools, I am compelled to seek election of this seat to eliminate barriers and help our parents, teachers, leaders and our community get the resources and support they need to ensure our children have access to a quality education. "Excellence in Education" is more than a phrase or desired outcome for our children, Education is their "Future" and it will take a collective network of committed people to help our children.

It takes someone who is willing to hold the state accountable, our leaders accountable and our community accountable to ensure our children, teachers and parents have what they need to excel and progress. This is the reason why my platform of "Accelerate Progress" becomes paramount in the future of our children's destinies. We can no longer afford mediocrity and accept the status quo, we must change the trajectory to improve Advance education with appropriate leaders making decisions to make a positive difference.

As a former director working with international clients, I understand the importance of accountability and I have the skills to manage and govern accountability, transparency, policies, hiring the right individuals, creating and adhering to budgets constraints, making accurate and difficult leadership decisions in the best interest of our children, teachers, parents and community. I am willing and compassionate to serve as a community advocate in our local communities to ensure we receive our educational needs.

As a mother who had two children successfully matriculate through our system, one of which is a director of Human Resources, and one is a former superintendent. Being a mother I knew what I expected for my children and I worked tirelessly to hold our system accountable to ensure my children received what they needed to succeed and become successful.

Now as a grandmother, I understand the needs of the future and see how our systems have to evolve to support the growing needs of all learners to ensure they are more than prepared to access college, career and success.

Darlene is blessed with a loving and supportive husband, Anthony Smith of 43 plus years of marriage. They have two wonderful daughters and three adorable grandsons: Hanna Morris, Son-in Love, Daryl, (Jaxon and Amari Creed) of Atlanta, GA, and Kiana Smith and Ayaan Dean of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Darlene and her husband resides in Conyers, GA.