

**Biographical Sketch
Professional Attributes
Deborah M. Harris, Ph.D.**

Dr. Deborah Harris is President and CEO of Deborah Harris, Inc. She was formerly an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Her major areas of research focused on collaboration and teacher effectiveness.

Dr. Harris taught children and youth with special needs for 10 years, and taught at the university level for 18 years. Prior to joining the faculty at USF, Dr. Harris was on faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. At the University of North Carolina and the University of South Florida, Dr. Harris received numerous accolades for teaching excellence, including both universities' top awards for teaching excellence.

Dr. Harris is well known for her work with school districts in facilitating the development of school culture, implementation of inclusive education programs and establishing effective teaching practices. Her signature style empowers teachers to own the process and become the propelling force for substantive change. Her practical and meaningful workshops continuously receive raving reviews from all who attend. She and her colleagues effectively “practice what they preach” which makes the information being shared realistic and inspiring.

Dr. Harris is also a professional orator and has traveled extensively addressing topics on communication, cultural diversity, collaboration, leadership, and job excellence, to name a few. Her motto is "Where there is no vision, there is no hope, where there is no hope there is no growth. When we cease to grow, we cease to exist."

Dr. Harris received her undergraduate degree from Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C. and earned both her Masters and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She served as a post-doctoral fellow with the Bush Institute for Child and Family Policy, a research fellow at the Free University of Amsterdam in Amsterdam Holland, and completed a research internship at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Dr. Harris is the mother of two and the grandmother of four.

She resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is actively involved in professional, civic, and church organizations.