

# **Every child deserves an excellent education.**



**Engaging parents, students and other education reformers to make sure ALL students have a great educational opportunity.**



## **An excellent education opportunity includes:**

1. Parent and student engagement in a school culture that is welcoming, supportive and safe.
2. Quality early childhood education.
3. Highly trained, effective and culturally competent teachers and administrators.
4. College and career ready curriculum.
5. Sufficient funding.
6. Access to higher education.
7. Effective interventions to keep students on track for success.
8. Healthy families and communities that support learning.

## **ARKANSAS has made great progress... but we're not there yet!**

- ◆ A majority of Arkansas students, *especially low-income and minority students*, still lack access to an excellent education opportunity.
- ◆ Arkansas can't do well unless every student has a chance to do well. Limited educational opportunities are hurting our economy.
- ◆ Whole communities of youth are unable to reach their potential because they are not receiving an opportunity to learn.

## **We know how to do better... but we need all of us to make it happen!**

- ◆ Proven solutions exist, but we're just not using them.
- ◆ Parents, students and educators need to lead, but we all have to help create a viable and successful education system.

# The Panel uses three strategies to support our goals:

## 1. Organizing parents in rural low-income communities

We work in communities across the state developing parent and student leaders to drive education reform.

We provide training and workshops on how the education system works and how parents can get involved.

## 2. Coalition building

Coalitions create opportunities for grassroots leaders to play an equal role in the decision making process with policy advocates and other reformers.

The Arkansas Citizens First Congress coalition, our sister organization, has focused on improving education opportunities for the past 8 years.

In 2010 we helped create the Arkansas Opportunity to Learn Campaign, uniting education stakeholders to work together on expanding educational opportunity.

## 3. Policy research and development

We produce reports on what is proven to help expand education opportunities that individual families, schools, communities, and state policy makers can do – as well as providing basic information to parents and local communities about how the education system works. We collaborate with Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families on much of our research.



## Key Partners in the Opportunity to Learn Campaign

- ◆ Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
- ◆ Arkansas Education Association
- ◆ Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
- ◆ Charles A. Frueauff Foundation
- ◆ Rural Community Alliance
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of the Marvell Area
- ◆ Arkansas Citizens First Congress
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of Prescott
- ◆ Arkansas Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of Monticello
- ◆ Camden Community Association
- ◆ Gould Citizens Advisory Council
- ◆ Pine Bluff Concerned Citizens
- ◆ South Arkansas Education Coalition
- ◆ Strong Community Leadership Alliance
- ◆ Deans of UAPB and UALR Schools of Education

**Our work and partnerships have produced better parent involvement, funding, world class pre-k programs and other effective reforms. Join us to keep the momentum going!**