

## Dr. Donna Dearman – BIO

Dr. Donna Dearman is a warm, engaging, educational professional whose inspired commitment has led to many achievements and to her fervent desire to join the Reading Coalition Task Force for the State of Alaska.

She believes that education and the empowerment that knowledge provides students are the greatest investment we could ever make in our country's future, and recognizes that, in collaboration with this distinguished group, there is much to do.

Dr. Dearman truly enjoyed her tenure with the Miami-Dade County Public School System, from where she retired as an assistant principal in 2006.

During her 20 years with the system, she also taught high school special education. Her primary areas of teaching were American Sign Language (ASL) and vocational classes for students with special needs. She obtained her undergraduate degree from University of Florida, then her master's degree in special education, followed by an educational specialist degree in special education - speech and language. Motivated by her love of learning and teaching, she continued her studies and in 1996, also graduated from Florida International University with an Ed.D in special education administration.

She was Rookie Exceptional Student Education Teacher of the Year in 1987, Teacher of the Year nominee in 1993 and Assistant Principal of the Year finalist in 2003.

Dr. Dearman helped author, and is responsible for, the ASL Bill passed in Florida in 1990 that recognized ASL as a second language, giving it status as college foreign language entry requirement.

Dr. Dearman ran for a seat on the Mat-Su School District School Board in 2013 and has served as the board president since 2016.

Dr. Dearman actively volunteers and along with her husband runs the Upper Susitna Seniors (USSI) Meals on Wheels program in the upper Susitna Valley. She is also an avid grant writer. When not volunteering, she enjoys traveling with her husband, reading and exercising.

