

Nancy Disharoon Loome '83

Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

After earning a marketing degree from Delta State in 1983 and a master's degree in counseling in 1987, Nancy Disharoon Loome directed university career centers, initially at Delta State and later at Missouri Southern State University, where she served on the Joplin (MO) Metro-Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

While a stay-at-home mom in Clinton, Loome became an outspoken advocate for properly funded public education in Mississippi. As a volunteer with the Coalition for Children and Public Education, she developed a statewide electronic network of concerned parents with whom she communicated about legislation that affected public education funding.

Prominent education champion Jim Barksdale rewarded Loome's efforts by funding the incorporation of a nonprofit to expand her work. A few months later, Loome, along with Claiborne Barksdale and Dick Molpus, established The Parents' Campaign, a nonpartisan grassroots public education advocacy group. She serves as executive director of for the statewide network that has swelled to more than 60,000.