

# Focus: HOPE

Nurturing   Passionate Commitment   Romal Responsibility   Hope   Success

## STORY

EDS Chairman Les Alberthal came from a small town in Texas where everyone knows everyone else, and helping your neighbor is "as natural as pulling on your cowboy boots." He encourages his 95,000 employees to live out his philosophy that healthy communities and healthy business go hand in hand. This is the story of how one EDS executive, Hulas King made a big difference in the lives of young people at Focus: HOPE in Detroit where a state-of-the-art technology center trains high school students to become manufacturing engineers and machinists. "Since the center's founding in 1981, more than 5,000 young people have moved out of poverty and forward in their lives," says Hulas. "For kids once on welfare and walking the streets, that's an incredible future." For Maia Cherry, one of the students mentored by Hulas, the personal attention and encouragement she received were as valuable as the technical training. "There are so many smart young people, and they don't even know their potential," says Maia. "I want them to know, if you have the desire, you can do it!"

## Reflection Questions

1. If you were Maia Cherry, what would you be most grateful for?
2. Hulas King went above and beyond what his job required- by giving of himself. Why?
3. Would you like to become a loaned executive someday? Why or why not?

## Lessons You Can Learn

1. When we reach out and help others, we can make everyone's dreams come true.
2. If you have the desire to something, you can do it.
3. Loaned executives from companies are a valuable resource to the community.

## ACTIONS

### Language Arts

- Recruit volunteers to conduct a technical computer-training program for students.
- Invite a draftsman, architect or a person experienced with CAD software to demonstrate it.
- Study how the EDS computer program Unigraphics is used to design cars.
- Invite a loaned executive to speak to students about their experience with a program.
- Invite a company community relations manager to discuss their apprenticeship program.

### Social Studies

- Read about business people like Andrew Carnegie who helped to improve society.
- Research the role that mentors have played in the lives of successful business people.

### Community Service

- Organize a penny collection project to support a worthy cause or class project. Set a goal; invite the school and the community to join in. Ask the newspaper to invite their readers.
- Develop business-education partnerships and mentors with local companies. Send them the Focus: Hope story and suggest they request more information (<http://www.focushope.edu> , Volunteers and Community Outreach: 313.494.4343, [volunteer@focushope.edu](mailto:volunteer@focushope.edu))
- Organize an "invention convention" in your school. Locate technology and other sponsors and partners for students to work with. Invite the public to attend an awards ceremony during an "open house" evening.