

Dina Michel-Wiggins, formerly, Dina Michel-Jeune New York Activities

1992: **Established** Association for the Economic Advancement of New York Women, (**AEA/NYW**) Inc., a non-profit providing business support services to low-income women, advocacy and benefits entitlement assistance. Also organized grassroots support surrounding welfare reform and removing barriers toward self-sufficiency. AEA/NYW had a Board of 12 members. Natale Didonato, Con Edison's Director of Economic Development, was most instrumental to the success of our mission.

1992-94 **Taught classes** to low-income individuals and welfare recipients on "**How to Start, Market and Manage Your Own Business.**" Workshops were held at various sites within the five Boroughs of New York City, and included: Medgar Evers College, the then Brooklyn Union Gas (downtown Flatbush), and Public Housing Developments (city-wide).

Related Newspaper write-ups: New York Amsterdam (8-8-92, 11-28-92, 11-06-93; New York Newsday (3-21-93, 11-18-93, 11-29-93); The City Sun (6-22-94).

***** News articles can be obtained at the Brooklyn Public Library's (Eastern Pkwy.) archive.

Radio & Television Interviews: WLIB (3-15-93, 1-12-94); WBAI (3/21/93, 6/20/93); WWRL (1-13-94 / Two of my then Board Members were interviewed); WNYE-TV (6-20-93).

1993: Received **letters of support** from Governor Cuomo and various New York State and City public officials, including a **Certificate of Appreciation** from former Brooklyn **Borough President, Howard Golden**, for the development of PASS-SE, (Plans for Achieving Self-Support through Self-Employment). PASS-SE integrated entrepreneurship as an employment option for welfare recipients.

***** Was invited to Washington, DC under the Donna Shalala Administration (HRA) to introduce PASS-SE to the Working Group on Welfare Reform

***** Today, the concept of PASS-SE is being carried out under the name known as: "**IDA**" (Individual Development Accounts).

***** A participant who meets the income requirements and is accepted into an IDA program is assisted in building up their savings toward business start-up, first home purchase, and vocational programs.

***** Depending on the individual program's guideline, participants' monthly savings are matched up to three (3) to one (1).