



Debra Duerr Memorial Scholarship Fund

IAP2 USA and Participation Company are pleased to announce the creation of the Debra Duerr Memorial Scholarship Fund

Debra believed in public engagement; it was the focus of her urban planning degree. She was a charter member of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), served on its US Board of Directors and was a founder of the Grand Canyon Chapter. Debra served on the IAP2 USA Professional Certification Task Force since 2013.

The **Debra Duerr Memorial Scholarship** will allow Debra's legacy to continue to support the program she was so passionate about.

The Scholarship is designed to reduce barriers to professional certification and targets professionals who will increase diversity within the universe of people who have earned the distinction of professional certification. It seeks to make professional certification possible for anyone worthy of the credential.

The Participation Company contributes to the program and additional donations honoring Debra's memory are gratefully accepted at [Debra Duerr Memorial Scholarship Donation](#). Scholarship funds are administered by a panel including a TPC partner, a representative of IAP2 USA's Equity Committee, and a representative of IAP2 USA's Certification Task Force.

Applicants who need financial support to complete the certification program are encouraged to [apply for the scholarship](#) before applying for certification. Completion of IAP2 Foundations Program remains a pre-requisite for certification. Payment in the amount awarded will be made directly to IAP2. Certification applicants must successfully complete the three-step certification process. Receipt of a scholarship will not assure successful award of certification.

Debra Duerr was an urban planner by education and an environmental planner throughout most of her 40-plus year career. Debra was passionate about providing a voice for people in environmental decision-making and she was an expert in federal environmental law, regulation, and policy. She loved her profession and took the work very seriously without ever once taking herself seriously.

Debra was exceptionally good at what she did; highly intelligent and analytical. She had an uncanny ability to traverse technical complexities, conflicting points of view, and high emotions to create logical conclusions and resolutions. Teams of people who worked with Debra marveled at the value of her insights. She had a way of sitting back, listening carefully, and speaking last, having found simple, practical, essential solutions that everyone could support.

When we came together to form The Participation Company, Debra was the logical choice to navigate among the other healthy egos and keep our collective business affairs on track.

Every group needs a quiet, wise voice, especially those groups with strong opinions and personalities. Debra was that voice for The Participation Company; always listening, hearing everything, missing nothing, and finding the precise moment to ask the right questions. As a planner at heart, she knew how to get to the core of issues and the essence of problems. Losing that voice, losing that person, is not something we will ever get over. It is something we will have to learn to live with.

Beyond her work, Debra was creative, well-traveled, fearlessly adventurous, and eternally joyous. A terrific chef, great communicator, wonderful writer, voracious reader, lover of people, a loving and well-loved daughter, sister, surrogate grandmother, and the best friend any of us could ever have wished for.

Debra's passing leaves a hole in all of us, but her presence was a lasting gift for everyone she touched. She made us better professionals and most importantly – better people.