

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy, that we take this moment to celebrate the work of Deborah B. Robinson, former Program Manager for the Environmental Career Worker Training Program of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc.

Deb, as she was affectionately known, joined the New Orleans-based staff of the DSCEJ in October of 2007, having previously served as Program Manager of our Minority Worker Training Program at Southern University in Baton Rouge. She came to us with a wealth of experience from obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology conferred by Southern University in Baton, Rouge to numerous certifications in Lead Paint Inspection, Human Resources Management, Training Facilitation, Neuro-Linguistics Programming Practice, OSHA 1910 Guidelines and Chemical Operator Trainer, to name a few.

Although a native New Orleanian, Deborah spent much of her early professional career gaining industry experience in Baton Rouge, New York and Texas; with Houston being the home of one of the primary sites of the Center's current ECWT program.

Deborah cheerfully lent her valuable experience and know-how to our programs for many years, finally returning home in 2007 to serve as Program Manager for the New Orleans site. She was at ease with staff and her travels and learning made it easy to understand the character and culture of the sites for which she most recently served as Lead Program Manager and Liaison. Deborah was loved by her students and those who worked with her. She made certain that student needs as well as site and staff concerns pertaining to her role within the program were addressed.

Graduation at the New Orleans site was a most special time for Deborah during the program year. As the culmination of activities finalizing each year's training cycle, Deborah relished putting together, along with the staff, a memorable event for the graduating trainees, complete with certificates, trophies, and prizes to aid these young men and women as they moved into their new careers. Some had never graduated before nor had many been honored for a single accomplishment. There was always a bright smile and a warm hug (pre-COVID-19) for each proud graduate.

Deborah's passing has left a void in our hearts and she will be sorely missed.

Deborah B. Robinson



October 3, 1953 - October 12, 2020

"I will always remember Deborah's smile and her grace under pressure. I remain wowed by her ability to make a home at the DSCEJ for each person in the environmental, health and safety worker training programs. She will be missed."

Monique Harden, DSCEJ

"Deborah and I were like seasoned white beans, rice, cornbread and pork chops; a combination that always worked well together."

Bruce McClue, DSCEJ

"Deb was the most optimistic person I know. She never let trials defeat her. She always bounced back on the winning side. Yes, she did it again because I know that she is dancing in heaven."

Mary Williams, DSCEJ

"Deborah worked well with our staff; she was very approachable, always available and willing to answer your questions.."

Unity in the Family Ministry

"Deb truly displayed the gift of service by sharing her beautiful smile and always making sure that your needs were met."

Denae King, TSU

"Debbie was my friend as well as co-worker. She reminded me of the importance of balancing my work and my home life. She made me laugh when times were tough. I miss her beautiful smile."

Celeste Cooper, DSCEJ

"My fondest memories of Deborah are those as a fun-loving office sister whom I turned to for advice on fashion, food, fitness and fun. She never steered me wrong."

Kim Dunn, DSCEJ

"Deborah managed to handle her role at the DSCEJ with ease, excellence, exuberance, style and humor. Her absence is deeply felt.."

Donele Wilkins, GDI



"Debbie's life was organized around people and she lived life to the fullest. She balanced work, family, friends and church in such a way that her work was efficient, her family members and friends felt connected and loved, and she always put God first. She was my baby sister and our family's bundle of joy."

Beverly Wright, DSCEJ

"Deborah was a true trooper, hard worker, eternal optimist and connoisseur of good jazz music. I will miss hanging out and having fun with her at Jazz festivals from the West Coast to the East Coast, the Gulf Coast, New Orleans and in between. Though she is gone, she will never be forgotten."

Robert Bullard, TSU