

Barbara Deborah “Deb” Spark

June 15, 1949 ~ November 15, 2023

I’m so sad to hear the world has lost the presence of a wonderful lady. Deb was my Associate Director in Granite School District. She was one of the best people I ever worked with. She loved the kids and developed trust with parents. It seemed she could solve any problem that came her way. To top it all, she had a wonderful sense of humor and made the work place a joy. The world was a better place because she was in it.

- Kathryn McCarrie

Deb mentored me though SpEdCo when I first moved to Utah and was working at my first school as a professional teacher. She was kind, direct, and honest. I loved her candor and wit, and will always remember her as a wonderful mentor, teacher, and co-worker. I will miss Deb, she was one of a kind.

- Alison Church

Deb hired me at GSD and provided tremendous support and assurance I could do the job as special education teacher. She was extremely knowledgeable and realistic. The buck stopped with Deb! There was no BS-ing with her. She would say it how it was, no sugar coating, but you knew she had compassion and empathy. Our district benefited greatly from Deb’s leadership. She was respected and loved. May she test in peace.

- Laura Bunker

I’m so sorry to hear of Deb’s passing. She was my favorite Special Education Director for the 3 different districts I’ve been a special education teacher. She was always approachable, kind, and incredibly knowledgeable. Her door was always open, something that is rare for special education directors. What a truly lovely woman. She will be missed.

- Mary Ruth Huerta

Deb saw my job application on her desk and called me immediately. She hired me, she was my biggest cheerleader and I considered her a friend. Granite school district lost an amazing, confident, intelligent and feisty leader when Deb retired. Deb made a difference in so many lives. Well done Deb! You will be missed.

- Heidi Henderson

Deb was an outstanding mentor for me when I began my career as a special education director. Deb's guidance was not just for work related but she was also great life mentor. Right before I got married, Deb gave me her snow plow as a gift. Amazing human being that will be missed forever. Fly high Deb!

- Ivonne Medina

I have such fond memories of chatting with your mom during USBE special education monitoring visits. Her humor and insights brought so much value and pleasure to the work. I always looked forward to conversations with her as she made me feel so welcome when I was new at USBE. She will always be remembered as a strong, caring and outspoken woman! Lavinia Gripentrog

- Lavinia Gripentrog

Dear Alison, family and friends, Deb was an example of love and diligently striving to achieve a happy life. Truly an honor to have been a part of her journey. May the beautiful memories created bring peace and comfort in the days ahead. Sending our love, Suncrest Hospice

- Suncrest Hospice