

The Deborah Nelson Scholarship

The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL) created this scholarship in remembrance of Debbie Versen Nelson (10/7/1950 – 10/6/2010). Our colleague and friend, Deborah Nelson, was a blessing to everyone whose life she touched. A charter member of A+PEL since 1987, Debbie was a dedicated teacher and principal. She was proud to be in the education profession, and she never wavered from her calling as a teacher. She loved her students, and they loved her.

Debbie was a native of Baton Rouge and graduated from Glen Oaks High School, Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, and LSU. At Southeastern, she served as co-ed vice president of Student Government, was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, and a Lionette. Upon receiving certification as a teacher, she taught at Wedgewood Elementary, where she also later served as assistant principal. Before she retired, she became principal at Westminster Elementary. Debbie was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma sorority.

Throughout the years, Debbie was an avid supporter of A+PEL. She represented the organization on district and state committees, and was active in the East Baton Rouge A+PEL Chapter. In 2002, after she retired from the school system, Debbie became our first Director of University Programs. Through her outstanding efforts, she built the program by establishing student chapters on several university campuses, and she developed an ongoing relationship with the university chapter advisors. An inspiration to college students aspiring to be teachers, she imparted her love for education, offering encouragement to those choosing to make a difference in a child's life.

Debbie loved her family and friends. She had 37 loving years with her husband John, and she was proud of her daughters, Laurie and Holly, and her grandsons, John Wesley and Adam Charles. She also loved her church. Debbie's favorite verse was Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you" says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future of hope." Debbie was often heard repeating this quote: "You are not stuck in your circumstances; you are positioned for God's purpose."

The Deborah Nelson Scholarship is awarded to a student teacher annually. Selected candidates must embody the enthusiasm for teaching and present a positive disposition. Each year, a \$500 scholarship will be awarded.

To make a donation to the Deborah Nelson Scholarship, please make payments to **A+PEL** and note the **Deborah Nelson Scholarship** in the comment line, and then send to:

APEL
7907 Wrenwood Blvd., Ste. B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

*****Donations to the Deborah Nelson Scholarship are tax deductible.*****