

In Memory of Mark Anderson



Our dear friend and colleague Mark Anderson passed away on June 3, 2025, after becoming ill on vacation in Mexico. He is survived by his husband Jerry, his brother Reid and several beloved nieces and nephews.

Mark was an activist for special education beginning in the mid-seventies. Along with his co-conspirators, he formed the Special Education Caucus. Its purpose was to promote special education issues within

the WEA and state level policy makers. By the mid-eighties, WEA established the Special Education Commission, with Mark actively involved. The Commission ensured that WEA members were at the table for all state committees creating rules and policies for special education. Mark's early activism and hard work was instrumental in the development of the special education program in Washington State.

In the 1990's, with Mark's leadership, the Special Education Commission pushed WEA to provide training on special education topics. The Special Education Cadre was the result of that effort. The Cadre has trained thousands of educators and parents and continues to operate today. With his knowledge, down to earth style and humor, Mark was one of the most popular cadre trainers.

Mark taught students with behavioral disorders in Kent, served as the President of Kent EA, and was on the WEA Board of Directors. He worked for the OSPI as a program monitor before returning to the WEA as lead staff for the Special Populations Support program. Mark was the ultimate advocate for WEA members and the student's they serve. He was a force of nature, a caring co-worker, and friend whose sense of humor brought joy and laughter to otherwise trying times.

Mark will be deeply missed by those who knew him.

Produced by colleagues of Mark Anderson.