

How DE Changed My Life

Mary Beth Spuck, CUDE Class of 2009

When I went through the DE in 2009, I was the AVP of Retail Sales at TwinStar Credit Union in Washington. After attending DE, I was promoted to VP of Organizational Development at TwinStar, and later I had the opportunity to serve as the CEO of The Paragon Group in January 2010. In October 2012, I was promoted to my current position as Chief Administrative Officer. I believe that the experiences I had and knowledge I was given through the DE Program helped lead me and shape me into the leader I am today.



I have always strived to be a servant leader, and my DE experience has helped me further develop those servant leadership traits. Through exercises and activities within DE, I have gained more empathy for my staff. One of the biggest take-aways I had from DE was the 12 development issues and how they can affect the daily lives of members and even my staff. I now look for ways to serve our employees with benefits that help address any of the 12 development issues our staff maybe experiencing.

Understanding the 12 development issues has helped me look at our membership more holistically rather than just from a financial perspective. I strive to look for ways we can serve our members in other ways than just through financial products and services. This is something I probably wouldn't have done had I not had the eye-opening experiences at DE Training.



I have stayed active in the DE community since graduating. I had the opportunity to co-facilitate the Philippines DE Program in 2012. Being able to co-facilitate the PhDE program and getting exposure to cooperatives in the Philippines was a life changing opportunity that would not have happened had I not attended DE. As a result, I became more involved with cooperatives in Washington. I also was able to give back to a DE class by serving as a mentor in 2016.

I also believe getting selected for Filene's i3 (Ideas, Innovation, and Implementation) program was a result of attending CUDE program with Matt Davis. The networking and friends I have made has been outstanding and far exceeds any other program I have attended.

The education and experience I received from the CUDE program correlates with the Native American proverb, "Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand." Throughout the entire program, it was essential to the learning process to take what I was learning in the classroom and apply it to other areas of my life. As a result, I have a much broader respect and empathy for others. In addition, the program has emboldened me to take action when I see injustice rather than sit on the sideline.