



PRESENTATION OF THE
2018
PAMELA K. DE LOACH
ADVOCACY AWARD

Division for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities
Council for Exceptional Children



Pamela K. De Loach Advocacy Award



Presented for the first time in February, 2018, in honor of Pamela's memory.

Pamela K. De Loach Advocacy Award

- The Pamela K. De Loach Advocacy Award honors individuals or groups who demonstrate strong advocacy on behalf of themselves or others who have physical, health, or multiple disabilities. Up to two recipients (individual or group) are awarded annually. Recipients of the award do not have to be DPHMD members, but the person nominating the individual or group needs to be a member.

About Pamela K. De Loach

- As a young woman with cerebral palsy before the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (now IDEA), Pam had to fight to get a quality education. In the 1970s, Pam had to fight to be accepted into a college teacher preparation program so she could become a special educator.
- She spent over 30 years as a teacher of students with severe and multiple disabilities and constantly advocated for her students to receive quality educational services.
- In 2007, when DPHMD experienced a crisis resulting in attrition of leadership, Pam stepped up and served as president and treasurer for two years. She is largely responsible for DPHMD remaining a viable division as she fought to rebuild the leadership and finances of the Division.

Pamela K. De Loach Advocacy Award

- Pam served three years on the Council for Exceptional Children's Board of Directors during which time she fought for small divisions, including DPHMD.
- In 2011, Pam underwent a double lung transplant due to pulmonary fibrosis, again having to fight for herself as a candidate with a disability. After her surgery, she became an advocate for organ donation.
- On December 7, 2017, Pam passed away, leaving her mark on her family, friends, colleagues, and students as well as the field of special education, particularly DPHMD.

CEC Conference 2018

- Pamela planned to be at the 2018 CEC Conference. She had even won conference fees paid through a Florida CEC event. She was very excited because the conference was held in her hometown, Tampa.
- To honor her memory, some members of DPHMD leadership met with Pam's family to have dinner, talk about Pam, and present the award to her family.



Pam's family (husband, Bob, and children Rob and Rachel with their families).



Some of the DPHMD crew: Angie Juárez (right front), Meg Cooper (behind Angie), Joni Baldwin (behind Meg), Kharon Grimmet (left side, white jacket), Mari Beth Coleman (left side, pink shirt) and Madison Weber (MBC's former student)