

Rebecca L. Foss*, FCSI

"For your vision and remarkable dedication by educating others in the principles of sustainable design; for your untiring promotion of CSI principles at the University of Minnesota; for your prominent role in founding the Duluth and Twin Ports Chapters; and for your proactive approach in shaping green building and sustainable design efforts across the country, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 1st day of April 2006."
Las Vegas, Nevada



REBECCA L. FOSS started her career in the construction industry after graduation from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. After several years working as a specifier for Cuningham Group Architecture, P.A., Ellerbe Becket, Ryan Companies, and Meyer Scherer and Rockcastle, all of Minneapolis, she obtained her Master of Landscape Architecture.

In 1997, Rebecca started her own business, EcoDesign Resources, Inc. Her firm provided guidelines and development for sustainable design practice for many owners and design firms. That same year, she took a position as Research Fellow at the Center of Sustainable Building Research, University of Minnesota, where she focused her attention on sustainable building guideline development. Her specialties included green specifications, materials life-cycle analysis, and sustainable landscape architecture. She contributed to many important projects, most notably the State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines. During her tenure at the University of Minnesota, she also established a specification writing program that was part of a Construction Management program, and taught courses in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and in the College of Human Ecology.

Rebecca joined the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, CSI, in 1989 and within a few years was involved in the chapter's Communications and Programs Committees. Education was always important to Rebecca, as witnessed by most of her work. Beginning in 1992, she spent 10 years as a member,

chair, and eventually vice president of the chapter's Education and Certification Committees; and in 1999 she became her chapter's 34th president. Rebecca also served on CSI's Institute Education Committee from 2000 to 2002. In 2001 she began her work as co-editor of the chapter's award winning "specifics" and continued in that position until her illness.

Rebecca's efforts and contributions did not go unnoticed. She received numerous chapter awards, including the Pete Norum Continuous Service Award and the Audrey M. Brucker Courage Award. In January 2006, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter created a permanent testament to Rebecca, renaming the chapter's environmental award the Rebecca L. Foss Environmental Award in her honor.

Even with all her numerous activities in CSI and the construction industry, Rebecca wanted to do even more. She was instrumental in founding the CSI student group at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis; contributed many years of service to the AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment; and was one of the founders of the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter of the USGBC.

On 7 May 2005, Rebecca Foss, friend to so many, lost her battle with cancer. Through her life, work, and friendship she succeeded in living by her favorite quote...

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." - Lao-Tsu

CSI Membership

Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, 1989
Twin Ports Chapter, Charter Member, 1994

Institute Offices, Committees

Education Committee, FY 2002

Chapter Offices, Committees

President, FY 2000

Awards

Institute

Education Commendation, 1996
Special Publications Commendation, 2001
Continuing Publication Commendation, 2003, 2004
Environmental Stewardship Award, 2006

Region

Education Commendation, 2000