## Jennifer DuBey

June 2, 1976 - September 4, 2023



The Treasure Coast lost a passionate advocate for economic advancement and vocational education on September 4, 2023 when Jennifer "Jenn" DuBey, 47, succumbed to injuries from an August 31 automobile accident.

Jenn was born on June 2, 1976 in Ware, Massachusetts. A self-described "military brat," her childhood was spent in various locations, including Germany. Jenn graduated from Flagler Palm Coast High School in 1994 and obtained business technical certificate from Indian River State College in 2004.

In 2010, Jenn joined the staff of the Business Development Board of Martin County as executive assistant and was soon promoted to the role of administrative and marketing coordinator. Her marketing campaigns for the Business Development Board earned statewide, regional and international recognition, particularly the "Board Meetings Don't Have to be Boring" ad campaign. Jenn worked for National Vision, Inc. from 2014-2016 and for CareerSource Research Coast from 2017-2018.

Jenn joined the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (EDC) as business manager in 2019, and also supported the Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association and the Greater Treasure Coast Partnership. Working with the EDC and St. Lucie Public Schools, Jenn worked hard on helping make the Ready-to-Work Boot Camp for newly graduated high school students a success. She also played a pivotal role in the EDC's response to the COVID pandemic, not only helping businesses stay informed but also assisting them with the application process for pandemic-related loans. In 2021, the Small Business Development Center recognized her with its Regional Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2022, Jenn was promoted to the role of director of business development where she played a key role in supporting the expansion and attraction of higher-wage employers to St. Lucie County. That same year, she was honored by the Florida Economic Development Council with a best-in-show award for "On the Road with Jenn & Jill," an animated video tour of St. Lucie County's industrial assets.

As EDC business development director, Jenn quickly acquired special talents in gathering data and applying sophisticated economic research tools to help executives with their business expansion decisions. Jenn's ability to do economic impact studies, incentives compliance and related business analytics on many of the new companies locating here provided a high level of confidence for our local elected officials that each project was thoroughly vetted and methodically examined prior to approval. This relatively quiet but critically important work orchestrated by Jenn helped pave the way for the tremendous economic growth and quality job creation St. Lucie County has recently experienced.

From organizing job fairs, industry tours for high school counselors and boot camps to volunteering for the Indiantown Rodeo, Jenn's high-energy vivaciousness drew people to her, and her persistence got things done. She never even missed a beat as

she battled breast cancer through multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation in 2022. And, wherever she went, Jenn was almost always arrayed in vibrantly colored dresses with carefully coordinated stiletto shoes.

As her close friend Jill Marasa shared, "Heaven has gained a new angel, surely the smartest and sassiest of the bunch .... And the best dressed." She will be desperately missed by everyone she befriended and helped over the years.

A scholarship fund has been established in Jenn's name at The Community Foundation Martin – St. Lucie. The scholarships will provide funds for tuition, fees, books, equipment and required tools for St. Lucie County and Martin County residents enrolled in a career or technical certificate program focused on manufacturing, logistics/distribution, the skilled trades and other disciplines approved by the scholarship committee. To donate, visit <a href="https://dagc.com/donation\_pages/0682b68c-c0fb-4d35-b56e-ac8f603cdb1e">https://dagc.com/donation\_pages/0682b68c-c0fb-4d35-b56e-ac8f603cdb1e</a>.