

# A Fond Farewell

One of the best decisions I made was to join the staff at the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans on November 5, 1974. After four decades of service, it's time to start a new journey—retirement on May 31. I'm excited about this new direction and sad to leave my second home and family. It has been a long and historic career filled with great opportunities and many challenges.

My early career duties at the International Foundation included meeting registration and traveling across the country, handling the on-site education program registration, sessions and speakers. In early 1977, this “new” International Foundation program called CEBS experienced an overnight success, and I quickly moved to an administrative position for the program. As CEBS mushroomed in the United States, a parallel program was introduced in Canada. The next stage saw the birth of ISCEBS in 1981. CEBS and ISCEBS continued to grow, driven by a high demand for benefits education and credentials. I stayed with CEBS and ISCEBS, serving in various capacities. In February 2011, I assumed my current position, with overall responsibility for CEBS for both Canada and the U.S. and the ISCEBS. I never fathomed when I started that my CEBS career would cover the next 40 years!

I have been most fortunate to be part of the Foundation and ISCEBS, both fueled by a very successful CEBS program and a volunteer force that was instrumental in shaping and supporting its direction. Of course, CEBS would not be what it is today without the expertise and direction from our academic partners the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Some of my fondest memories surround the ISCEBS. Watching the local chapter network grow, being able to connect each year at the Symposium with so many “benefits friends,” working with volunteers who have a passion for their job and a willingness to share their expertise, and communicating on a daily basis with members who are so very proud of their professional accomplishments.



Sandy Becker, CEBS  
Director, CEBS/ISCEBS

Looking back, the biggest “wow” is how exceptional it's been to work in an industry populated with so many dedicated and talented people who make a difference in the lives of thousands of plan participants.

With my passionate pursuit of excellence, I believe I have made a difference in furthering the professional development of those working in the employee benefits world as well as guiding and inspiring the CEBS/ISCEBS team to give their best, think strategically and always look for new opportunities.

It truly has been a very fulfilling career, and I give heartfelt thanks to all who helped shape my life. I will cherish the many opportunities, the hundreds of people I have met and the unique encounters/stories that I love to tell, but most of all—a lifetime of memories that I take with me.

# Congratulations, Sandy!