

Remember Leah Guerreiro-Ramos... Fehr & Peers Scholarship



Leah Guerreiro-Ramos (Fehr & Peers)

Scottish poet Thomas Campbell said, “To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.”

Determined to keep the memory of marketing professional Leah Guerreiro-Ramos in everyone’s hearts, Fehr & Peers created two \$5,000 WTS-LA scholarships with the support of Leah’s family, friends, coworkers, and the company. We hope that sharing the gifts of Leah’s life with two deserving students and across our transportation community will remind us how important we all are to each other.

“I worked with Leah for years” explains Fehr & Peers Principal and Los Angeles Operations Manager Michael Kennedy. “She was such a force of life that it seems incomprehensible that she’s gone. She was an integral part of our Fehr & Peers and the Kaku Associates team for 17 years and is deeply missed. She possessed a sharp intellect, a clear sense of right and wrong, and a wonderful biting wit. It’s an understatement to say that she was a unique presence in our office.”

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in the classics and English from Skidmore College in New York, Guerreiro-Ramos joined Kaku Associates in 2000. In 2006, Kaku became a part of Fehr & Peers. Guerreiro-Ramos loved her work, but she also kept a keen balance with life outside of the office. A dedicated athlete, she also loved to travel. In particular, she developed a deep love of Italy, primarily centered on Rome. Whether it was her classics training or just the food, Guerreiro-Ramos felt a profound connection to the city, its architecture, and its culture. Rome served as a refuge in the last several years of her life.

She also cared deeply about her work and the people she worked with. She asked her colleagues to reach out and inform everyone of her situation and how much she appreciated both their individual support and the considerable support of the firm. In April 2018, Guerreiro-Ramos was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. She passed away in November 2018.

“We are very fortunate that we haven’t had to deal with this kind of thing as a firm until now,” adds Fehr & Peers Principal Sarah Brandenburg. “In times like these, it’s evident that our mission of improving communities is about a lot more than transportation. The work environment we create and the support we provide to one another serves every aspect of our lives. From our teaming partners to our clients to all of our staff, Leah really touched many people with her kindness, intelligence, and insightful humor. We really wanted to honor that. And we thought she’d appreciate the idea of the scholarships. It just all came together when we figured out that we could do it through WTS-LA.”

On November 7, at the annual scholarship and awards dinner, WTS-LA will present two \$5,000 Fehr & Peirce Scholarships to UCLA graduate students May'ayan Dembo and Guadalupe 'Lupita' Huerta to honor Leah Guerreiro-Ramos.