

Trustee



Deborah T. Bronston-Culp

When the UC San Diego Foundation made a decision to grow in trustee diversity and experience, the board stretched all the way to New York City to engage Deborah Bronston-Culp, an alumna from UC San Diego's Muir College. An economics major, Deborah contributes in a significant way to the Foundation as an experienced equity analyst and manager. She serves on the Investment Committee, bringing an East Coast perspective to the committee's decision-making for UC San Diego's endowment.

Deborah served at Morgan Stanley as a managing director, and from 1998 to 2003 was associate director of equity research. Prior to that she had a short stint at NatWest Securities as managing director and was employed for 14 years at Prudential Securities as vice president and managing director. She was the Institutional Investor's All-American Research Poll winner in Textiles and Apparel for eight years. In addition to her B.A. from UC San Diego, she holds a C.F.A. from the University of Virginia.

Now retired, Deborah still spends a great deal of time in the markets – “personally, not professionally. I keep pretty close tabs on the markets.” When asked how her name came up for a board appointment, she is very pragmatic: “This invitation may have been part of a concerted effort to match committed alum with committees that could easily exploit their expertise. Moreover, there may have been some appeal in adding ‘coastal diversity’ to the board composition.”

Her commitment to UC San Diego comes as a bit of a surprise to her, in light of the fact that she spent only her senior year at UCSD, returning to Manhattan after graduation. In that one year, “I had a really good experience as a student; it was a good fit, and as a result, I wanted to give back. Rather than just writing a check every year, I felt there was more I could do. I love the investment world and I feel I'm applying my twenty-plus years of experience to helping position the endowment.”

In addition to serving on the UC San Diego Foundation, Deborah was on the Board of Advisors for Watershed Center for the Ceramic Artists, is a volunteer with the New York Women's Foundation and has worked for Doctors Without Borders. Of her different nonprofit experiences, she finds UC San Diego to be among the more efficient. “At UCSD, we investigate an issue, we make a conclusion and then we act on that conclusion. Many of my colleagues on the Investment Committee are very additive to this process; I'm learning from their point of view and their questions.” The ideal for a university experience.