

Deb Stopak

Associate Director of Development
The *SkillSource* Group, Inc.

Deb Stopak attended George Washington University, School of Public and International Affairs, graduating in 1982 with a BA in International Relations, Sino-Soviet Studies with a specialty in Chinese. Upon graduation, she joined the Washington representation office of Pullman, Inc., which had greatly expanded from the original train passenger car company to a multi-national giant.



Ms. Stopak's career path veered away from the international political arena as family took priority. However, after returning to the Washington, D.C. area in 1986, she resumed a career with political overtones, first working for the non-profit trade association, the North American Telecommunications Association (NATA) which was actively involved in the re-structuring of a new telecommunications industry following the dissolution of the AT&T/Bell Companies. Ms. Stopak later joined the Arnold & Porter Consulting Group (APCO) which led to the opportunity to join the Capitol Hill staff of then-Congressman Byron Dorgan (D-ND). She left to join the law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand where she worked as the Events & Special Projects Coordinator for several years until she left to stay home to raise her 2 sons.

Rejoining the workforce 5 years later, Ms. Stopak managed a sport fencing school for several years which allowed her the opportunity to pursue her passion as a nationally-ranked competitive sabre fencer. While still actively involved in competitive fencing, she chose to return to the non-profit community, joining the *SkillSource* Group in December 2008 where she is the Associate Director of Development focusing on fundraising efforts. She also coordinates the Training Provider activities as well as working closely with *SkillSource* Center staff to comply with WIA monitoring requirements.