

Principal Planner Nan Stolzenburg Receives Advanced Credentials in Environmental Planning

The American Planning Association (APA) and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), congratulates Capital District consultant Nan Stolzenburg as one of the first individuals in the United States to earn an advanced credential as an AICP Certified Environmental Planner (AICP CEP). Ms. Stolzenburg is one of thirty-three people nationwide who have earned this recognition.

The Advanced Specialty Certification in Environmental Planning recognizes an individual's in-depth knowledge, experience, and leadership skills in environmental planning. AICP CEP recognition is awarded to certified professional planners who have achieved an exceptional level of expertise in the art and science of advanced environmental planning, including: analysis of complex environmental planning problems; creation of feasible solutions; coordination across constituencies and disciplines; and recommendations that efficiently integrate natural systems into the full set of systems necessary for healthy and sustainable communities.

Principal Planner and founder of Community Planning & Environmental Associates in Berne, New York, Ms. Stolzenburg has a Master's Degree in Regional Planning from the University at Albany, a Masters Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts, and a BS Degree from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse. She has over 20 years of professional and technical experience in many areas of land use and the environment, with special interests in small town and rural planning, community revitalization, comprehensive planning, and agriculture and open space planning. Her specialty areas include comprehensive plans, development of zoning and land use programs and regulations, planning for community character, and environmental analysis and site planning. She has developed comprehensive and strategic plans for over 50 different communities throughout the Northern Catskills, Mohawk Valley, Capital Region, Hudson Valley, Central New York, and Northern New York, some of which have won national and state-level planning awards.

CEP recognition requires environmental planners to draw not only on their knowledge but also on their experience and familiarity with natural systems, performance measures, best practices, and comprehensive planning. According to Karen Wolf, Senior Executive Policy Advisor in the Office of Strategic Planning and Performance in King County, Washington and one of the developers of the AICP Certified Environmental Planner examination, "Environmental planners constantly face challenges involving tradeoffs among growth, development, and environmental protection. The AICP CEP credential emphasizes the importance of solutions that are comprehensive, sustainable, and long term. The AICP CEP credential recognizes the role environmental planners play bridging the gap between science and planning, working in both of these disciplines to find ways to accommodate growth while also protecting the environment."