

# Empowering Women as Leaders

SUPPORTING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION,  
NETWORKING AND MENTORING



## THE EWL STORY...

Empowering Women as Leaders was the vision of Carolyn Bondy, who has an extraordinary passion to leave a legacy for women who want to re-invent their lives later in life. She also has a strong desire to demonstrate that one woman with a dream *can* make a difference.

After considerable research, in October 2004 Carolyn founded EWL with nine other women, all from the corporate world and all who shared her desire to help other women achieve. They met with the VP of Student Life at Texas Women's University and told him of the newly established 501(C)3. He was so impressed that EWL was providing a unique program with financial scholarships and personal mentoring that TWU helped EWL establish our STAR program that continues to this day.

Carolyn's dream was to provide scholarships to 50 women by the time she is 80. Within twelve years her dream goal was exceeded, and new goals have been established to touch more women's lives.

We are so excited to announce EWL will be celebrating its 15 year anniversary and reaching 100 STARs in 2019!

## DALLAS CHAPTER HOLDS LAUNCH A LEADER LUNCHEON — KEYNOTE SPEAKER ADDRESSES MENTORING, COACHING AND SPONSORING

On November 7, 2018, the Dallas Chapter held the annual fundraising event for the scholarship funds at the Park Cities Club in Dallas. Meredith Black, First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the keynote speaker, provided an excellent discussion about MENTORING, COACHING, and SPONSORING in the workplace. Ms. Black shared the importance of having a MENTOR during her career at the Dallas Fed, who she could look to for advice and guidance. She advised selecting a mentor who is someone you see has respect of others, has achieved goals that you want to accomplish, and will be able to assist you. You should ask for the mentor's help and be sure they are willing to mentor you. Ms. Black discussed how a COACH can help you develop your leadership skills, and how a SPONSOR is imperative to help you rise up the corporate ladder. These three roles are totally different and can impact your career very differently. She had coaches throughout her career who showed her the way to take her talents to the next level. They encouraged her to keep learning, to keep stretching. But her sponsors are what made the most difference. She credited her managers at the Dallas Fed for sponsoring her at the appropriate times to put her name in front of the right executives. She had the working knowledge and the skills, but needed the opportunities, and her sponsors were there to be sure she was given the opportunities.

The Dallas Fed, like many companies today, has an initiative to mentor, coach and sponsor its employees. In today's environment of constant job movement among employees, many employers realize it is imperative to retain the best talent. Mentoring, coaching and sponsoring those employees is the best way to achieve that retention.

## FORT WORTH EWL CHAPTER IS LAUNCHED!

Empowering Women as Leaders launched the second local chapter in December 2018. EWL-Fort Worth was chartered as a separate 501(C)3 corporation with five board members - Libby Rueda, Melody Winters, Michelle Priller, Christina Palma, and J Nelson Cruhigger. EWL-FW has several networking events planned throughout the year. A golf tournament is planned for late May and a Launch a Leader Luncheon in October to raise funds for scholarships. This chapter has hit the ground running!

## DALLAS EWL PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS TO 10 TWU STUDENTS

On February 1, 2019, EWL-Dallas awarded scholarships to 10 Texas Women University students. The scholarship recipients are Daisy Anaya, Tiffany Ballew, Lorianne Gillander, Pearl Lewis, Alyssa Martinez, Linda McDonald, Cynthia Mears, Teresa Nimmo, Jessica Votaw, Melissa Williamson.



These students completed a rigorous application process, the requirements which include a panel interview, retention of 3.2 grade point, and a full-time class load. The recipients compete for these scholarships against several hundred applicants. Through the program, they must continue these requirements, and engage in mentoring and EWL events.

Once in the program, they are referred to as STARS. EWL provides support *to help them ignite their own light and energy so they may shine bright in their future lives and careers.* These

women are the "cream of the crop" and EWL is proud of each and every one of them! The component of our program that differentiates EWL from other scholarships is that EWL pairs these women with professionals in a one-on-one mentoring program. EWL believes these students are the "cream of the crop" and they are STARS! The Board is proud of each and every one of them!

EWL provides a one-on-one mentor program and many STARS realize strong relationships between each other and with the TWU staff who assist with the program. EWL provides group mentoring events, networking events, and other leadership and growth opportunities for the STARS.



### AMY O'KEEFE

TWU Executive Director - CARE  
(and EWL STAR Coordinator)



### JESSICA BURCHFIELD

TWU Assistant Director - CARE  
(and EWL STAR Coordinator)



### GRETCHEN WIRTH AND VALERIE ELKINS

EWL-Dallas Past President  
Gretchen Wirth and EWL-Dallas  
STAR Program Director Valerie  
Elkins

## MENTOR SPOTLIGHT - KIM MYERS

When Kim Myers, Senior Vice President/Treasury Management Director with Independent Bank Texas, attended the Launch a Leader luncheon in November 2018, she was so moved by the EWL mission and program that she volunteered to be a mentor at the luncheon.

Kim began her career in banking as a part-time teller in 1981 while attending junior college. After marrying at the very young age of 20, she took a break from college and, unfortunately, never had the opportunity to complete her degree. At age 30, divorced with a new-born son, she was suddenly on her own trying to juggle the responsibilities and demands of a single, working mom. There were many times she felt defeated and unable to advance her career because she didn't have a college degree. Fortunately, she had strong mentors (both men and women) who encouraged her, helped her navigate the business world. Through their leadership, she found the confidence to step into new positions at the banks where she worked. Her parents and mentors taught her to work hard, learn as much as possible and ***never be afraid of a new challenge.***

With over 35 years in banking, with 20 of those years specialized in treasury management, Kim has excelled in her career. Her responsibilities with Independent Bank include management, strategic planning, liquidity management, sales, product development, risk management,

customer service, implementation, and operations. Prior to joining Independent Bank, she had started her own consulting company in 2006, Kim Myers & Associates LLC, which provided consulting services to Texas community banks to assist with development of treasury management programs. To support her mastery of her niche in her profession, she received her Certified Treasury Professional Certification in 2001.

Kim is very proud of what she has accomplished but she has always regretted not having a college degree. Who knows... she might have been a shining STAR candidate if EWL had existed when she was a struggling single mom! She is grateful to be a part of the EWL Mentor program and hopes she can provide leadership, guidance and encouragement to other women. She is thankful for being introduced to EWL. She says she knew she had found the right place for her to give back when she attended the EWL luncheon last year. EWL is certainly thankful for Kim's involvement and for her enthusiasm!

## STAR SPOTLIGHT — PEARL LEWIS

Pearl Lewis was born in Anaheim, California into a conservative Mormon home. She has worked assisting people with disabilities much of her working life. As a child, she felt strong empathy and felt similar to oppressed individuals or groups of people that have had challenges or have suffered. The racism in American history and the need for Civil Rights broke her heart. Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr became her childhood hero. Due to such, she serves her community in a volunteer role as the Legal Redress Co-Chair of the Collin County Chapter of NAACP.

Pearl moved from California to Austin, TX, and then moved to North Texas in 2010 to be near her Mom. Unfortunately, her mom died in May 2014. Pearl then decided it was critical to get her education and graduated from Collin College. She now attends Texas Woman's University. Pearl has also become heavily involved in her community and local politics. She became a Precinct Chair for the Collin County Democratic Party in September 2016 and she also volunteers as a Deputy Voter Registrar. She is now creatively self-employed as she focuses on completing her educational goals. She owns her own pet sitting and dog walking business called "Petsitting Pearl".

She is now more motivated and ambitious to better her life, advance her career, and help others. She plans to attend law school after she completes her Bachelor of Political Science with Legal Emphasis at Texas Woman's University. EWL is so proud of Pearl!



## KIM MYERS AND KAREN GOETTING

Mentor Kim Myers and Dallas Board member Karen Goetting



## PEARL LEWIS

STAR Pearl Lewis receiving congratulations from EWL-Dallas Star Program Director Valerie Elkins



## CAROLYN BONDY

EWL Founder and Chair shares her story to the new STARs at the signing party



## MENTORS

Mentors attended the STAR signing party



## FULL HOUSE

Mentors, EWL board members, and TWU staff attended the STAR signing party to congratulate the newly selected STARs!



## JOAN KUEHL

EWL Dallas President

## MENTORING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

According to [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org), mentoring, at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity. Yet one in three young people will grow up without this critical asset.

**Young Adults Who Were At-Risk for Falling Off Track But Had a Mentor Are:**

**55% more likely to enroll in college**

**78% more likely to volunteer regularly**

**90% are interested in becoming a mentor**

**130% more likely to hold leadership positions**

## EVENING AMONG THE STARS

EWL National is hosting the first Alumni Event for all STARS, Mentors, and Board members to celebrate 15 years and 100 STARS! Memories of mentoring relationships and STAR success stories will be shared. EWL's founder Carolyn Bondy will be the evening's keynote speaker as she shares more of her personal story and accomplishments. This will be a very special event for Carolyn as she will see the results of her dream and selfless efforts and the impact she has made on so many women. More surprises are planned for attendees!

The event will be May 16, 2019, at 7:00pm - 8:30pm at TWU Denton Campus Blagg Huey Library. Invitations to this wonderful will be sent to STARS, Mentors, Board members and TWU staff members. The Evening Among the STARS will be a night to remember!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**February 28** - EWL-Fort Worth hosted a **networking event** "Women with a Heart" at the home of Melody Winters. The meeting was open to potential new members. Congratulations EWL-Fort Worth!

**March 2** - EWL-Dallas hosted a STAR/Mentor Brunch for their new STARS and Mentors at Gloria's Latin Cuisine in Las Colinas at 10:00 am. The board welcomed the new STARS and their mentors to EWL-Dallas.

**March 9** - EWL-Fort Worth hosted a **networking event** at Christina's Fine Mexican Restaurant. The meeting was open to all potential new members. The event was a success with EWL-Fort Worth adding their first new member!

**April 10** - EWL-Dallas is hosting a Stress Management/Career Coaching event for STARS and Mentors at TWU @ 7:00 pm.

**April 11** - EWL-Fort Worth is hosting a **networking event**. The event, Pairing Women with Success, will be a wine tasting at Michelle Priller's home. The meeting is open to all potential new members.

**May 16** - EWL-National is hosting An Evening Among the STARS at TWU Denton Blagg Huey Library from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. This Alumni event will be a great opportunity for everyone to network with STARS, Mentors, Board Members and TWU staff. Look for your invitation soon!

**May 21** - EWL-Fort Worth is hosting their first Golf Tournament at Texas Star Golf Course. This is a fundraiser for the STAR program for the FW Chapter. Look for more details on social media and in future newsletters!

**June 6** - EWL-Dallas is hosting a **networking event**. This Wine Tasting event will be open to all board members, mentors, STARS, and potential new members.



## MARCH 2 GLORIA'S STAR BRUNCH

EWL-Dallas STAR Brunch



## MARCH 9 CHRISTINA'S NETWORKING EVENT

EWL-Fort Worth Networking  
Event



## MAY 21 GOLF TOURNAMENT

EWL-Fort Worth's first big  
fundraiser for scholarships.  
Spread the word to help make  
this event a huge success!

