

EMPOWERING WOMEN AS LEADERS

SUPPORTING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION, MENTORING AND NETWORKING

3Q2019

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

A dream comes true!! It's hard to believe October 2019 is the 15-year anniversary of Empowering Women as Leaders. Over the past 15 years, EWL has doubled my meek initial goal to support 50 women. It is with great joy, to be celebrating the selection of our 100th woman in October, our anniversary month!

I first envisioned creating a nonprofit to enable women to change their lives through a college education around the turn of the century. Like with most dreams, it was a vision that had to be birthed. It took four years to truly make it happen. Having a dream is not special; what is special, is **seeing the importance of the dream, pushing through the challenges and overcoming the fears to follow your heart to make a difference in other women's lives.**

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the women who have served on the board to make this dream come true. The success of EWL is based on the love and hard work of over 60 professionals that have served on the board. EWL would not be the success it is today with your contributions.

I also want to acknowledge the EWL mentors who have given of their time over the past 15 years. Your mentorship has enabled our STARS to find their breakthroughs, confidence, passion and leadership. Mentoring is the key part of EWL that differentiates us from other scholarship programs. We truly appreciate you and the role you've played to shape the lives of the EWL STARS through your love, service and dedication.

We are also so excited with the 2019 launch of the EWL Fort Worth chapter. Fort Worth is growing and is starting their STAR Program this fall. Our goal is to continue to launch chapters over the upcoming years so that we broaden the impact we are having on women's lives.

Learn more about Carolyn's story and EWL at <https://www.ewlusa.org>

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Thank you to everyone who chose to give to Empowering Women as Leaders on North Texas Giving Day! We know there are a lot of deserving and worthwhile charities, and we appreciate your giving to EWL! As a new participant in this fundraiser, receiving the funds for one scholarship was a success!

Your support is greatly appreciated and we do not take it for granted. Without it, we would not be able to continue to inspire future leaders, provide hope for their families, and empower them to change their community. Without your support, our program would not be successful. If you did not have an opportunity to give on NTxGiving Day, you can make a one-time to EWL [online here](#).

We also invite you to join us for our upcoming annual fundraiser for the Dallas EWL chapter. We would be honored if you could attend our luncheon, meet some of our scholarship recipients, mentors, and board members. Learn more about the Launch a Leader luncheon below.

SPEAKING OF DONATIONS...

As the holiday season begins, more and more we are doing our shopping online. More and more we are going to Amazon. Do you use AmazonSmile? Did you know that, simply by enrolling in and logging into AmazonSmile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate a portion of the price to the charitable organization of your choice. And it is no different than Amazon.com. How fun is that???

Empowering Women as Leaders can be your charitable organization of choice. It is for several of the board members. For some purchases, it is a little bitty amount that gets donated to EWL, but OVER TIME, and COMULATIVE, these amounts add up. And it costs nothing! It's free to do, and it's a donation from AMAZON! All you need to do is shop! Actually, sign up then shop.

Here is how you sign up:

At www.amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com instead, sign up to support Empowering Women As Leaders. Save.

To shop and donate:

1. Enter "smile.amazon.com" in your browser address bar
2. Shop & place your order
3. Amazon donates

Thank you for your support! Happy shopping!

EWL DALLAS - "LAUNCH A LEADER" LUNCHEON

EWL Dallas Chapter is hosting its annual scholarship fundraiser on Wednesday, November 13th at LaCima Club, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Our keynote speaker Sherri Yeary, the Generational Guru, will share with us how "We Can Have it All Just Not All At Once!"

This luncheon is always an exciting networking event where we showcase our STARS and mentors, and when we share EWL's mission with others.

Learn more about the Launch a Leader luncheon [here](#).

Our keynote speaker will be Sherri Yeary, the Generational Guru, as our keynote speaker! Sherri is known for understanding the differences between the generations and how to communicate effectively so your multi-generational workforce can perform at its optimum level. She is multi-talented, as a business-woman, a motivational speaker, an entertainer, and distinguished author, and a mother. Her book, "We Can Have it All *Just Not All At Once!*" addresses how we can fit "everything" into our busy lives, but we must take care of ourselves, place priorities, and think about what **we** really want.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
11:30A.M. TO 1:00P.M.

LA CIMA CLUB
5215 NORTH O'CONNOR BLVD
SUITE 2600 - IRVING, TX 75039

You're invited
2019 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



EWL DALLAS
**LAUNCH A LEADER
LUNCHEON**
*You Can Have It All,
Just Not All At Once!*
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Sherri Yeary, The Generational Guru

LEARN MORE AT EWLUSA.ORG/DALLAS/

If you are a current STAR, this luncheon is to *honor* you. If you are a STAR Alumni, EWL wants to showcase you! If you are a mentor or a former mentor, come and witness the success of your partnership! This luncheon is a celebration of EWL's success and the STARS!

We hope you will join us and help us reach our goal of 100 scholarships to change the lives of 100 women!

Visit our website for more information and purchase your tickets! Corporate sponsorships are still available!

<https://ewlusa.org/dallas/event/2019-launch-a-leader-luncheon/>

DALLAS BOARD SPOTLIGHT - VALERIE ELKINS, STAR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

My name is Valerie Elkins. I first became acquainted with EWL from my friend Gretchen Wirth. We were participating in the MS Walk in Addison. Charities centered around Multiple Sclerosis have always been close to my heart because my dad was diagnosed with MS in 2000.

However, I found it really difficult to get involved on a personal level outside of fundraising because of what a large organization it was. I was talking with Gretchen about this when she told me about EWL. At the time she was the current President. I was really excited when I heard about the mission and vision so I joined EWL in 2016 as a mentor in the organization. I joined the Board of Directors in late 2017 and became the Director of the Star/Mentor program in the summer of 2018. I am also still a mentor today and am really excited for my Star. She just graduated and has decided to continue schooling to obtain her masters in Social Work. She works so hard and I am so happy for her and her accomplishments as well as her new granddaughter!

My responsibilities to the organization include working with Jessica to confirm applicants for each year's program, set up the interview process for the finalists and recruit mentors to the organization. I also work to match Stars with their future mentors and help to coordinate the annual kick-off brunch held at the beginning of each year. I am always looking for new mentors to discuss the program with and want to find additional ways mentors and STARS can engage to make their relationships more effective.

In my day job I work in the financial services/insurance industry representing banks and mortgage companies with residential mortgage portfolios in distress. I am so proud to be a part of this organization. I think an organization that empowers women is so important in today's society. Women helping to build up other women and give back to the community in which we live is such a great thing. I welcome any feedback about our program or any ideas that can help make it better!

TWU SPOTLIGHT - JESSICA BURCHFIELD

The staff of Texas Woman's University is key to the success of EWL's STAR program. Specifically, two women, Jessica Burchfield and Amy O'Keefe, have been by Carolyn's side throughout her journey for the past 15 years. Without them, this program could not be as strong and successful as it is today.

Jessica earned a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Texas Woman's University. She began her career in higher education at TWU in 2012 as a Program Coordinator in Commuter Services, and now works as the Associate Director in the CARE Office. Jessica guides the Division of Student Life on how to improve programming and communication with online students, and promotes and delivers existing Student Life services through websites, online communities, email lists and Learning Management Systems. She also advises two honor societies and is the TWU Liaison for Empowering Women as Leaders scholarship and mentor program.

Jessica says "working with organizations such as Empowering Women as Leaders is not only rewarding, but a great opportunity for me to get to know our students at Texas Woman's. I also greatly enjoy the connections I make with EWL members throughout the years - the friendships are an even bigger bonus for me! Working with EWL helps me better understand the needs of our students at TWU and really helps me connect students to much needed resources both on and off campus."

Jessica has an 18 month-old son who is a ball of sunshine for her and her husband. She lives, works and enjoys Denton very much. She has called Denton her home for the last 15 years!

It is evident to all who know Jessica that she strives to assist any and all students in need to exceed their own personal, professional, and educational goals here at Texas Woman's University. She says that she loves that we (TWU) found an organization like EWL to share this

mission and motivation for empowering women. EWL feels the same about TWU and Jessica and her team!

Educate a woman, empower the world!

STAR ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - MELODY HARGROVE

As a first-generation college student, EWL provided support for me both financially and through mentorship. These resources were not available within my family at any level. Through the EWL program, I gained confidence in myself that allowed future success to follow. Just enrolling in college was against the odds for me.

I grew up in a trailer home in west Odessa and was the daughter of an oil man and a stay-at-home mom. As a young kid, I remember feeling crushed after watching a sitcom with my family and asking about my college savings. I learned rather abruptly that there was not one. If I was going to go to college, I would have to fight for it. There would be no sitcom dorm room experience for me. I would have to work, earn scholarships, and eat the elephant “one bite at a time”.

The mentorship program with EWL provided a mentor that gave me invaluable advice and direction. I was not in this alone and I COULD do it.

I am now proud to say that I completed my education and I graduated from TWU's nursing program in 2011. I am the director of nursing at one of the largest ambulatory surgery centers in the country AND I just graduated with a double master's degree in business and health systems management May 2019.

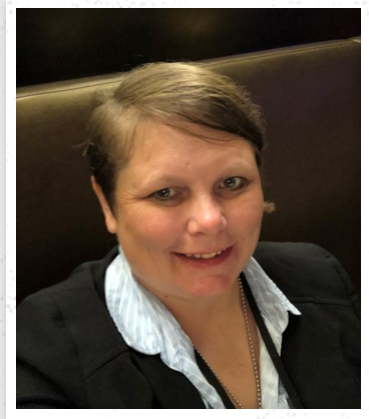
EWL is very proud of Melody! She is a fantastic example of so many of our STARs who achieve so much, against what they see as unthinkable odds. Like she states, she went at ‘ the elephant one bite at a time.’ With EWL's assistance – both financial and mentoring – she was able to achieve success that the little girl in sitting on the floor in the mobile home did not believe she could. EWL and TWU recognized that drive, determination and desire in Melody, and supported her so she could achieve.



**VALERIE
ELKINS**



**JESSICA
BURCHFIELD**



**MELODY
HARGROVE**

STAR ALUMNI GROUP LAUNCHED

As announced in the last edition, EWL has launched the EWL STAR Alumni Program! The first meeting was held on October 1 in Dallas, with seven STAR alumni and four members of the National Board. The purpose of the EWL STAR Alumni Program is to provide another level of EWL engagement and networking activity for STARs during the professional phase of their lives. This program will work to reconnect the STAR alumni, re-engage them with EWL, each other, and TWU. One of the goals is to capture the alumni's stories – where are you now? The STARs will also have the opportunity to pay it forward, enabling other women coming behind us to find their success stories. and support chapter growth, ongoing fundraising efforts and more.

The EWL STAR Alumni Group would like to connect with all STAR Alumni. It is with your input that this program will be developed, and it is with your passion and your engagement that we will collectively create, develop and launch this new STAR Alumni Program. We are excited to partner with our EWL STAR Alumni to make it a program that reflects YOU, your career, your input, and provides new and dynamic growth opportunities that will serve in a complimentary way to your new roles as professionals in your current and future employer organizations.

At the October 1 meeting, several Alumni volunteered to assist the STAR Alumni Program Director Sheryl Jackson by serving on a committee which would coordinate with the rest of the Alumni group in determining the direction, establishing contact, and arranging events. If you would like to serve, please contact Sheryl at Sheryl.Jackson@ewlusa.org.

If you are a STAR Alumni, look for an invite to a private Facebook page for EWL STAR Alumni only.

SEEKING MORE MENTORS!

EWL assigns a Mentor for each STAR when she enters the program. Mentors are matched with STARs for the duration of their undergraduate degree, and have the opportunity to continue mentoring for the onset of the STAR's career (the first two years). Mentors maintain regular

contact with their STAR through phone calls, texts, email, or face-to-face meeting, whichever works best for their relationship. The EWL chapters host events for the STARS and Mentors to encourage networking, educational growth, and community involvement.

EWL will be awarding scholarships to new STARS for the Spring 2020 semester, and pairing these recipients with Mentors. We are seeking new Mentors for these new STARS. At times, due to unforeseen circumstances, a Mentor is unable to continue in her role and provide the mentoring opportunities and receive the rewards mentoring brings. EWL has openings for additional mentors to step in for our STARS who no longer have an active Mentor.

If you would like to become a Mentor, contact Valerie Elkins at Valerie.Elkins@att.net or 314-614-7599. Valerie can coordinate your interest with the Dallas chapter and the Fort Worth chapter at this time.

EWL FORT WORTH NETWORKING EVENT

EWL Fort Worth hosted a networking event at Chocolate Secrets in Dallas on Wednesday, October 16. The guests of honor were Chefs Iliana Cordera, Jennifer Cordera, and Zuleika Reices who were in town for the Caribbean Food Championship to compete for the World Food Championship Title! Through networking with the Puerto Rican Association of Dallas-Fort Worth, two of the EWL Fort Worth officers met these chefs and invited them to this networking event. Chocolate Secrets was a perfect setting for this event, as it provided a private room for EWL, has luscious chocolates, a wide selection of wine and craft beers, and a delicious food menus. Another group of realtors was meeting in the other private room of Chocolate Secrets, and we had the opportunity to meet and network with them. The power of networking was in full force!

These chefs are competing in the championship competition through Saturday, October 19th. We wish them all the very best of luck!



**3 CHEFS AND
PRESIDENT
LIBBY
RUEDA**



**WE HAD A
WONDEFUL
TIME!**



**CHOCOLATE
SECRETS
WAS
DELICIOUS!**

MENTORING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By being a consistent adult presence in a young person's life, mentors can offer advice, share life their experiences, and help a young person navigate challenges.

Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking. (Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers Big Sisters)

Young adults who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 81% more likely to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities than those who do not. ([The Mentoring Effect, 2014](#))

A study showed that the strongest benefit from mentoring, and most consistent across risk groups, was a reduction in depressive symptoms – particularly noteworthy given that almost one in four youth reported worrisome levels of these symptoms at baseline. ([The Role of Risk, 2013](#))

Mentoring promotes positive social attitudes and relationships. Mentored youth tend to trust their parents more and communicate better with them. ([The Role of Risk, 2013](#))

EWL provides an excellent opportunity to mentor other women. Be involved. Make a difference. Change a life.

WE APPRECIATE OUR LAUNCH A LEADER LUNCHEON SPONSORS!

We sincerely appreciate the companies who generously sponsor our luncheon. With your support, EWL provides scholarships, mentoring, and networking opportunities for inspiring women who will become tomorrow's leaders!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GOLD SPONSOR





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