

# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Mattie Stepanek, who had become known as a peace advocate and motivational speaker before his death at the mere age of 13, said “Unity is strength... where there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.” How true are those words! EWI of Houston may be smaller and many of us have taken on additional loads, but without unity and team work, we would not have been able to accomplish what we have thus far. I greatly appreciate all of the helping hands that made our combined Executive Night and Scholarship Night a success. It would have never happened without all of us working together and what a wonderful thing we achieved! Yes, we may be used to raising over \$100,000, but we all deserve a hand of applause for raising over \$41,000 this year. I could not be prouder of EWI of Houston!

The Membership Committee has hosted a Membership Drive to encourage all of us to seek members for EWI of Houston. Have you thought of someone and invited them to an EWI meeting or shared their name with Membership Director Carole Pitts? The past two years we have struggled with participation. We do understand that because of Covid not everyone is comfortable meeting in person; but ask yourself: Did I participate on my committee? Did I participate in our Zoom meetings? What kept me from participating in EWI of Houston? We have all had changes and challenges, but there is a reason you are still a member of the organization. I know that many are members for our BCDP programs and the comradery of the Chapter, but we need you more than just at Executives’ Night or Scholarship Night. We need a strong team of people who are willing to give a little bit of time and effort **throughout** the year. This year the EWISP and ASIST Committees only had 3 committee members participate. Because of this our BCDP Director, President Elect and myself all stepped up to assist in every way possible so that EWI of Houston could do our due diligence in seeking out and receiving applications, knowing it matters to us who receives the Scholarships. We all take so much joy in our Scholarships, but is it fair just to reap the reward instead of assisting in finding the deserving recipients if you are assigned to that committee? If you are assigned to a committee that you feel is not a good fit for you, then please reach out to the President and they will work with you on which committee may be a better fit. I will tell you this --- with less participation the work that EWI of Houston does is a lot more difficult and time consuming. With the help of a handful of board members, committee chairs, and active members all come together on multiple committees to make it happen.



2020-2021

## Officers & Directors

**President**

Rebekah Wesley  
Jackson & Company

**President Elect**

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Douglas Elliman Real Estate—Texas

**Secretary**

Sandy Gracia

**Treasurer**

Cindy Baker  
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Margo Faulkner  
Sewell Automotive Companies

**Director-at-Large**

**B/C/DP**

LaTonya Perez

**Fundraising**

Shannon McNair  
The Rose

**Membership**

Carole Pitts  
John Daugherty, Realtors

**Program**

Wendy Gonzales  
The Plaza Group

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

LaTonya Perez



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We love our Chapter because of all the good we do for our community, but we **need you** to continue to make all of these things happen! Remember: “The strength of the team (EWI of Houston) is each individual member (you). The strength of each member is the team.” – Phil Jackson

September is a busy and exciting month for EWI! Thursday, September 9, we will have our Annual Meeting. We have to have a quorum at this meeting, so please try your best to be in attendance. We are unable to conduct the necessary business of the Chapter if we do not have a quorum. We will be in a private room at Avenida Brazil. This room holds up to 60 guests and based on our June meeting, we expect to have 35-40 in attendance. We will be spaced out all at a double U table. At check-in we will have temperature checks and wrist bands for you to wear. If you have your wrist band from the August meeting and your color has not changed, please wear your wristband. At Avenida Brazil there is a salad bar and then they come around with the meats for your entrée. If you are uncomfortable going to the salad bar, then please let Sergeant-at-Arms LaTonya Perez know and they will serve you a Caesar Salad. September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> nine of us will be attending LCAM in Albuquerque, NM, representing EWI of Houston. We are excited to come together with other Chapters to see what they have been doing and what we can do to continue to grow our Chapter, be united, and continue to make great things happen as a team.

EWI of Houston would not have been able to continue accomplishing great things without each one of you. I am thankful to have all of you on my team, and I know that EWI of Houston will continue to make great things happen for many years to come!

“Teamwork is the ability to work **together** toward a common vision. The ability to direct **individual** accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the **fuel** that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” -Andrew Carnegie

I look forward to seeing all of you on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at our Annual Meeting.




**Rebekah Wesley**  
**Jackson & Company**



# CHAPTER DATES

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 - AVENIDA BRAZIL, 12350 SOUTHWEST FWY (77477)  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021- MAGGIANO'S, 2019 POST OAK BLVD (77056)  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021- LOCATION- TBA

## LCAM

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2021- ALBUQUERQUE, NM

## *Save the Date*

Please Join EWI of Houston

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021 | 5:30 PM**

**MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY**

2019 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056

Installation of the 2021 - 2022 Board & Officers

# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Avenida Brazil

12350 Southwest Freeway, Stafford, Texas 77477

5:45 PM Networking

6:30 PM Annual Meeting and Dinner

*Menu*

## SALAD BAR

Smoked Salmon	Cucumbers
Salmon Ceviche	Peppadews
Salami	Red Bell Peppers
Brazilian Chicken Salad	Cherry Tomatoes
Boiled Eggs	Sliced Tomatoes
Potato Salad	Spinach
Apple Salad	Romaine Lettuce
Grilled Pineapple	Croutons
Asparagus	Manchego
Green Beans	Parmesan
Green Olives	Mozzarella
Shiitake Mushrooms	Salad Dressings & More

## DINNER

Filet Mignon	Lamb Chops
Filet with Bacon	Chicken with Bacon
Beef Ribs	Chicken Legs
Ribeye	Parmesan Pork
Top and Bottom Sirloin	Pork Ribs
Picanha	Pork Sausage
Shrimp	Au Gratin Potatoes
Salmon	Garlic Rice
Scallops with Bacon	Fried Bananas

## DESSERT DUO

New York Cheesecake      Chocolate Mousse Cake

## \$55 PER PERSON

One Drink Ticket for House Wine or Caipirinha Cocktail  
 Complimentary Sodas, Iced Tea, Brazilian Limeade,  
 Regular and Decaf Coffee, and Hot Tea  
 Complimentary Self-Parking



RSVP'S due by Friday, September 3, 2021

RSVP & Pay Online at [www.ewihouston.org](http://www.ewihouston.org)

Checks payable to EWI of Houston may be mailed to:  
 Rebekah Wesley, Jackson & Company  
 707 Hawthorne Street, Houston, Texas 77006

# Philanthropy News

Submitted by LaTonya Perez, Individual Member

Houston ewi PHILANTHROPY PRESENTS:

# BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

YP NORTH FOREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 9TH MEETING  
AVENIDA BRAZIL STAFFORD

OR

LATONYA PEREZ  
[LATONYAEDMEADE22@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LATONYAEDMEADE22@GMAIL.COM)

THE SCHOOL IS REQUESTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- PENS
- PENCILS
- HIGHLIGHTERS
- COLOR PENCILS
- COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS
- 2" BINDERS
- FOLDERS

EWI WILL ALSO ACCEPT CASH DONATIONS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL ITEMS



CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

# Membership Challenge!

July 1, 2021 thru September 24, 2021

Email prospective member firms to anyone on the Membership Committee listed below.

For *each* referred firm that becomes a member of EWI (membership application submitted and membership fees paid), earn a \$50 gift card at a very special presentation at our October chapter meeting!

- Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates: [kbart@bartcohou.com](mailto:kbart@bartcohou.com)
- Sanela Hasagic, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.: [shasagic@lan-inc.com](mailto:shasagic@lan-inc.com)
- Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors: [carolep@johndaugherty.com](mailto:carolep@johndaugherty.com)
- Mary Speltz, Sustaining Member: [maryspeltz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryspeltz@sbcglobal.net)
- Natalie Young, VisitHOUSTON: [nyoung@visithouston.com](mailto:nyoung@visithouston.com)

**We challenge each one of you to be driven to grow EWI of Houston!**  
**Our Goal: 10 new member firms by September 24<sup>th</sup>!**



September

Shell Energy Resources Company 9 years

October

Landry's, Inc.—Downtown Aquarium 15 years



Liz Palacios	September 1st
Barbara S. Callender	September 6th
Mary Sue Patronella	September 8th
Becky Dunn	September 13th
Cheri Ferguson	September 25th
Beverly Kaufman	October 1st
Craig Howard	October 2nd



## Update on Past Scholarship Winner

Submitted by Mary Margaret Carroll, representing MMScholar & Associates

From Crystal Calhoun, Previous Scholarship Winner:

Hi! I'll give a quick update. I went to school through HCC to get my pharmacy technician certification, and shortly after took the exam to become certified and licensed. I have two kids now, a boy and a girl, I wanted to do this for them to show them no matter how hard life beats you down you can still rise up to accomplish anything you want.

The success of all the women in the EWI encouraged me to continue my education to become better.



**Crystal Calhoun** · 2nd  
Pharmacy Technician  
Houston, Texas, United States · [Contact info](#)



## In Memory of Adelaide DeBow

EWI of Houston would like to honor Adelaide DeBow's commitment to our ASIST Scholarship Fund with a special ASIST Scholarship in 2022. Adelaide loved the ASIST program and worked tirelessly to raise funds for the program.

All contributions may be made online at <https://ewihouston.org/how-to-help/donate.html> or mailed to Cindy Baker, 11 Greenway Plaza, Suite 3100, Houston, Texas 77046.

Please make a note "In Memory of Adelaide" with your contribution.



## July Meeting Recap

Submitted by Margo Faulkner, representing Sewell Automotive Companies

The July meeting of EWI of Houston was held at Eloise Nichols in the Galleria area.



Guest and Shannon McNair, representing The Rose



Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests and Rebekah Wesley, representing Jackson and Company





Debra Crabtree, representing Westpark Communications, Executive Martha Cabellos, representing MC Business Products, and Past President, Jessica Sebesta



EWI of Houston enjoyed a delicious dinner while discussing membership ideas and networking



Mary Margaret Carroll, representing MMcarrroll & Associates and LaTonya Perez, Individual Member



# August Meeting Recap

Submitted by Rebekah Wesley, representing Jackson & Company

This year EWI of Houston combined our Dollars for Scholars Fundraiser, Executives' Night, and Scholarship Night themed Driven to Succeed at the beautiful Citadel Houston. The venue was large enough for everyone to be socially distanced. Throughout the evening, you could hear lots of chatter and laughter among the 80 guests in attendance. Member Firm Let It Fly Events provided the beautiful décor in the room. There was a lot to celebrate! First, EWI of Houston's Executives are a tremendous base of support and the primary reason why Houston is able to give back more to the community than any other Chapter in the organization. Without our Executives, we would not have been able to raise over \$250k in our fundraising efforts towards our BCDP account the last three years. Even though EWI of Houston did not have Executives' Night in 2021, we raised over \$30,000 in monetary contributions. EWI of Houston is so fortunate to have the continued support of our Member Firms, Executive's, Representatives and the city to continue our scholarship programs and literacy initiatives for our future generations.



## E W I O F H O U S T O N E X E C U T I V E S

Amegy Bank  
Steve Stephens

Houston First Corporation  
Holly Clapham-Rosenow

Pearce Industries, Inc.  
Gary M. Pearce  
Louis M. Pearce III

Atlantic Relocation Systems  
Neil Vasant

Jackson & Company  
Romain Kapadia  
Joe Pachioli

QL Capital Partners  
Ajay Khurana

Black Haw Group  
Myron Geer Blalock III

James J. Postl Interests  
James J. Postl

Sewell Automotive Companies  
Lance Baker

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.  
Tracy Bridge  
Milton Carroll  
Kenneth Mercado

John Daugherty, Realtors  
John A. Daugherty, Jr.

Shell Energy  
Resources Company  
Katie Cottingim

CIMA ENERGY, LP  
Thomas K Edwards

Landry's, Inc.  
Tilman Fertita

Skerl & Associates  
Damir S. Skerl

Corinthian Houston  
Boyd Bryan

Let It Fly Events, LP  
Ellen Ramsey

Speedy Printing Katy Freeway  
Ivette Chapman

D. Jones Photography  
David Jones

Lexis Florist  
Sue Habib

Texas Southern University  
Dr. Teresa McKinney

Douglas Elliman Real  
Estate - Texas  
Catherine Lee  
Jacob Sudhoff

Lockwood, Andrews, and  
Newman, Inc.  
Wayne C. Swafford  
Claudia Williamson

The Ballroom at Bayou Place  
Craig Howard

MC Business Products  
Martha Ceballos

Martha Turner Sotheby's  
International Realty  
Paul Kilian

The Plaza Group  
Randy Velarde

EOG Resources  
David Streit

Metromarketing Services, Inc.  
Becky Copeland Dunn

The Rose  
Dorothy Gibbons  
Shannon Lecoq

Harvest Midstream  
Jason Rebrook

MMCarroll and Associates  
Mary Margaret Carroll

VisitHOUSTON  
John Solis

Hilcorp Energy Company  
Greg R. Lalicker

Omni Hotels Houston  
Gayla Guyse

Westpark Communications  
Kathie Edwards



# THANK YOU EXECUTIVE NIGHT DONORS

## SILVER SPONSORS

Amegy Bank/  
Anne-Laure and Steve Stephens  
Harvest Midstream  
Hilcorp Energy Company  
Lockton Companies

## CRYSTAL SPONSORS

CIMA ENERGY, LP  
MC Business Products  
Rosanna and Myron Blalock, III

## GENEROUS DONORS

Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty  
Beverly and Jim Postl  
Bari Ross  
Skerl & Associates  
Waukesha-Pearce Industries  
Mary and Paul Wilson

## AUCTION DONORS

Aerodome  
Al's Handmade Boots  
Alpha Omega Winery  
Aquinas Companies, LLC/Mark E. Worscheh  
Avenida Brazil  
Chris Noble  
Ciro's Italian Grill  
ConocoPhillips  
Diane Bart  
El Tiempo Cantina  
Gringo's Tex-Mex  
Houston Symphony  
Houston Texans  
Houston Zoo  
Jackson & Company  
Kay Bart  
Kimberly Sterling/Kimberly Sterling  
Nonprofits  
Krupp Brothers  
Marji Zamora

Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty  
Mary Sue Patronella  
Messina Hoff Winery  
Mitsubishi Logisnext Americas (Houston)  
Nice Winery  
Niko Niko's  
Patti Strawther  
Phillips 66  
Roma Restaurant  
Senterra  
Sewell Automotive Companies  
Shannon McNair  
Society for the Performing Arts  
Stagecoach Retreat  
Top Drawer Lingerie  
Total Wine and More  
William Cole Winery  
Williams Selyum Winery  
Wines Before Sold Out



President Rebekah Wesley honored the 2020 Lucille Johnson Perkins Award Recipients EWI of Houston received at our virtual Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting. As a Chapter, nominations are submitted to Corporate with letters and rationale, the Corporate Awards Committee reviews the nominations from all EWI Chapters and selects one winner for each category. These awards are given to outstanding member firms and representatives that are active and in good standing with EWI. The work and support provided by the Member Firm and Representative is truly outstanding and benefits the total EWI network through Connections, Careers, and Community.



2020 LUCILLE JOHNSON PERKINS AWARD

*Congratulations*

djonesphoto

OUTSTANDING SMALL MEMBER FIRM



2020 LUCILLE JOHNSON PERKINS AWARD

*Congratulations  
Rebekah Wesley*

REPRESENTING JACKSON & COMPANY

LEADERSHIP AWARD



President Rebekah Wesley presented a special award to Kay Bart, representing Skerl & Associates, acknowledging her as the heart of EWI of Houston. She is very active attending all chapter and committee meetings and has a love for all aspects of membership. Kay is a wealth of knowledge and someone you turn to for guidance whether it's EWI related or personal career decisions. She is a role model to many from her professional appearance to her work ethic. Kay truly believes in EWI and always wants what's best for our Chapter.



EWI of Houston gave away \$33,000 to 11 scholarship magnificent winners. This would not have been possible without the time effort and dedication of our BCDP Director LaTonya Perez, EWISP Chair Sara Waguespack, ASIST Chair Donna Turner and judges. Read below to learn more about each winner.



2021 CHERRY YORK EWISP AWARD



ALONDRA MARTINEZ  
Texas Tech University  
Major: Biochemistry or Public Health

Alondra Martinez comes from a Salvadoran and Honduran family of six children. The value of education is something that she had to understand at a young age as her parents were the exact opposite of "guardians." Without a father contributing after the divorce, in the beginning of the Global Pandemic her Mother moved to Florida with her three younger siblings leaving her to financially support herself. In the midst of financial hardships, she has focused on her education and will be the first in her family to attend college. She works part time to support herself, but she loves staying active and has a true passion to share the Word of God with others. Resilient, Determined and Compassionate are only a few words to describe her character and work ethic. Alondra has dreams of becoming a dermatologist and would like to thank EWI for all the advice.

2021 EWISP OPPORTUNITY AWARD



DEANNA GILMORE  
Lamar University  
Major: Psychology, Nutrition, or Sociology

DeAnna Gilmore was born and raised in Houston, Texas. She is the daughter of Douglas and Connie Gilmore and she has one older sister, Cierra Gilmore. She attended Stafford High School and graduated in the top 10% of her class. She has always been involved in many organizations inside and outside of school; these organizations have allowed her to demonstrate her leadership skills in many ways. DeAnna joined the Stafford Sensation dance team and became an officer. Dance allowed her to meet so many amazing people and build lifelong bonds. Her parents instilled the importance of working together as a team and she was proud to be a part of something that strengthens sisterhood and does not diminish it. She aspires to become a pediatric nurse and then become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Attending Lamar University is just the first step for her and she is excited to embark on a new journey.



## 2021 EWISP OPPORTUNITY AWARD



**RISHABH GHOSH**

Harvard University

Major: Biological Sciences

Rishabh Gosh has always had a desire to learn from a young age; both of his parents emphasized the importance of Higher Education. When he was in elementary school his father was diagnosed with a rare form of stage 3 colorectal cancer. His entire family took it very hard but now his father is cancer-free! Rishabh plans to become a doctor. He would like to create internships for women and people of color to help provide equity to the current divide between groups. He will be attending Harvard University where he will be studying Biological Sciences with plans of enrolling in Medical School in the near future. His mother's dream had always been to help create a better world for others, and he thanks the women and men of EWI for supporting his education and making his mom's dreams a reality.

## 2021 EWISP OPPORTUNITY AWARD



**CURTIS GUNDRUM**

University of Mississippi

Major: Pharmacy

Curtis Gundrum grew up in rural northern Illinois with his parents and younger brother and sister. The importance of having a good education has played a really big role in his life. His family moved to Galveston, Texas from northern Illinois in 2019 before his junior year of high school. This was a huge change but despite the Covid disruption, Curtis made the most of it and was active in the National Honor Society, became a beach lifeguard, and was captain of the swim team his senior year. He has worked extremely hard in high school taking dual enrollment classes and was honored to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa at Galveston College, and on the President's List for a GPA over 3.9. Curtis won't be in Texas much longer because in a few weeks he will be moving to start school at the University of Mississippi where he has been accepted to their early entry PharmD program where he will be majoring in Pharmaceutical Science. Curtis would like to thank the women and men of EWI for selecting him as one of the 2021 scholarship recipients.

2021 EWISP OPPORTUNITY AWARD



**ORE JAMES**  
 Dartmouth College  
 Major: Global Health/Media Studies

Ore James was born shortly after her parents immigrated to the United States. Understanding and learning language - how it worked and how it functioned in different cultures - has played a large role in how she communicates and what shaped her early understanding of the world. This continues to influence her today. With her parents encouragement she learned to love telling stories and small narratives leading her to writing and entering short story contests in school. In high school, after taking her first journalism class, Ore realized her passion of narrating first person stories came in different forms of journalism. She is also exploring the future of digital media connecting journalism with disciplines like public health and writing for local publications. Combining studies in health policy and communication, Ore is looking forward to researching and narrating the stories of communities throughout and beyond college.

2021 EWISP OPPORTUNITY AWARD



**MACI KONEN**  
 University of Texas Austin  
 Major: Biology

Maci Konen and her younger sister were raised by a single mother. Her mom continues to work hard so that she can completely focus on school. This allowed her to dedicate her time to becoming the Captain of her Swim Team, President of the Interact Club, a member of National Honor Society and Community Chair in Student Council at Willis High School. Her dream, since she was little, has always been to be a marine biologist, researching marine life and the aquatic ecosystem. She envisions herself working on conservation projects to help protect the marine ecosystems and all the wildlife that they contain from rising problems such as pollution and climate change. Maci has a true passion and love for animals and the ocean, so she knows that this is the perfect path for her to take. Everyday Maci strives to be like the greatest and most inspiring person she knows - her Mom!



2021 SHIRLEY HOOVER ASIST AWARD



NICOLE BANKS

Lone Star College - Kingwood  
Major: Sociology

Nicole Banks grew up in Los Angeles, California and she made a choice to defeat the odds. She grew up in a family that did not support education and was told that she needed to work and keep her mouth closed. In spite of this, she aspires daily to be an ambitious, goal-oriented individual covered with the determination to become successful. She struggled for most of her life because she was nurtured not to question or go against the status quo. But Nicole is defying odds as she is continuing her education and has become the proud owner of her own company. She gives God praise for allowing her to found a non-profit called, I AM Resource, a charitable organization that endeavors to impact local and global communities by using strategic data-based models. The first initiative was a housing development in the Fifth Ward for women who are overcoming domestic abuse. This scholarship was her own personal wind of momentum to keep dreaming. She hopes that her education helps others to realize their goals and execute without fear or hesitation. In the future she intends to earn a Master's in Sociology and Ph.D. in International Relations.

2021 ASIST OPPORTUNITY AWARD



OLGA CACH

University of Houston - Downtown  
Major: Biochemistry

Olga Cach immigrated to the United States from Guatemala. Her parents got divorced when she was just a toddler and neither her parents or grandparents completed high school. Her older sister became her legal guardian after suffering years of abuse at the hands of her grandmother. Her sister's sacrifices gave her an opportunity to go to school and get an American education. Olga has had a rough life and knows it has been a roller coaster. However, with great support she was able to attend Houston Community College and Lone Star College earning associate degrees in Arts and Nursing. Her greatest achievement is getting where she is right now, one step closer to her dream of being the first generation to have a degree. She will be a senior in the Fall of 2021 and within the next two years she wants to gain experience and develop her skills in Biochemistry. She would love to be a part of the team that researches a cure for the virus. Thank you to EWI for always supporting and believing in her, this could not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the women and men of the Houston Chapter.



2021 ASIST OPPORTUNITY AWARD



**SONYA DONALSON**  
 University of St. Thomas  
 Major: Masters in Clinical Mental Health  
 Counseling

Sonya Donalson has dedicated her entire life to working with children and families, first as a Montessori teacher, and then as a youth director. She is now working on her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in order to better serve the community. Without the scholarship she would have not been able to pay for her summer semester, which is required for her program. This scholarship has allowed her to continue and start working on her thesis which will be done through the Fort Bend Women's Center. One of her greatest achievements is working on a sustainable program for parents that have experienced trauma such as domestic violence and sexual abuse. She has created her thesis around this and started teaching positive discipline parenting classes, as well as continued the filial therapy parent group at Fort Bend Women's Center. She also does individual play therapy there with children ages 2-18. She will graduate next summer and eventually wants to pursue her Ph.D. She is so grateful to everyone at EWI of Houston for helping her pursue all her dreams.

2021 ASIST OPPORTUNITY AWARD



**NAKIA SIMS**  
 Houston Community College  
 Major: Law

Nakia Sims is an advocate at heart and she enjoys helping and sharing her life lessons with everyone. She has been a homeless single mom with two children living with learning disabilities. Instead of applying for disability for herself, she continued to push on and educate herself and those around her. Currently, she is on the National Low-Income Housing advocacy workgroup. She also volunteers on the National Housing Law Projects eviction prevention and emergency assistance work groups. Due to COVID as doors for jobs have closed, she learned to hone her skills learning as a volunteer. She is only a step away from being a State Licensed Practicing Attorney and the BARBRI preparation courses will give her all the tools and testing skills she will need to pass. Nakia plans to take the Texas Bar in February 2022 and wants to thank EWI for helping her succeed.



**2021 ASIST OPPORTUNITY AWARD**



**KARA VINET**  
 Sam Houston State University  
 Major: Accounting

Kara Vinet's journey has been filled with many hardships and many successes because of those obstacles in her life. She became a mom at 19 right before she was about to start college and put her education on hold to raise her son. Starting school meant the world to her! Kara found herself again and has a new outlook on her future. She now has two beautiful sons and a great support system. With all this amazing and supportive assistance, she will be starting her senior year at Sam Houston State. She has an amazing career with opportunity for growth after her Senior Year. School has pushed her and taught her many lessons along the way but she is determined to receive her Degree and just be able to say to herself and her boys, "I did it"! Her goal is to continue in accounting and one day become a manager that can help impact the youth starting out from where she started.

**SCHOLARSHIP JUDGES**

The EWI of Houston scholarship programs would not be possible without our judges. The ASIST and EWSIP programs are judged by a panel of three judges who represent three very important sectors of the city - Business, Community and Education. They donate many hours reviewing and scoring each application. The judges then conduct a personal interview with each finalist. We appreciate the time and dedication of each of our judges.

**EWISP**  
 Business

Allen Gelwick, Lockton Companies

Community

Katherine Caligone, Former Non-Profit Director

Education

Cindy Herndon, Retired Teacher

**ASIST**  
 Business

Julija Babajko, Quantum Energy Partners

Community

Carole Brady, HomeAid Houston

Education

Veronica Leah, Houston ISD







## Membership Report

Submitted by Carole Pitts, 2020-2021 Membership Director, representing John Daugherty, Realtors

### Membership Status as of August 17, 2021

36 Member Firms	1 Life Member
40 Representatives	6 Honorary Members
2 Individual Members	
17 Sustaining Members	
Individual Members: 2	
Firms with 4 Representatives: 0	
Firms with 3 Representatives: 0	
Firms with 2 Representatives: 2	
Firms with 1 Representative: 33	
Firm with Rep Pending: 1	

### RESIGNATIONS:

Sustaining Members: Corrine Richardson, Patricia Curry, Dale Hunt

## Professional Development

### The Cost of Work Stress— And How to Reduce It

**Rob Cooke** • TED@WellsFargo • February 2020

By some estimates, work-related stress drains the US economy of nearly 300 billion dollars a year — and it can hurt your productivity and personal health too, says wellness advocate Rob Cooke. He shares some strategies to help put your mental, physical and emotional well-being back at the forefront.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch this TED talk!





CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

EWI of Houston Vision Statement

EWI of Houston aspires to be the premier business organization of choice for member firms and their key individuals. Recognized by the Houston community as an avenue to achieve personal and professional excellence, every activity of the Houston Chapter will fulfill at least one of the objectives of the EWI Mission Statement.

Our Mission

EWI brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

Our Strategic Goals

- To strengthen, expand, and broaden membership.
- To provide member firms with meaningful benefits.
- To actively promote education for all representatives.
- To achieve a high level of community visibility through service.

Our Vision

To enhance professional growth and development within a diverse group of women while empowering them to make a difference as they inspire others.

EWI of Houston Connect Newsletter

**Feature your firm in a monthly Firm Spotlight!  
Have news? Share it in the Connect Newsletter!**

**Contact:**

Margo Faulkner, Communications Director  
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