

# CARE

Compassionate • Academic Success • Respect • Empathy

W3 NEWSLETTER | January 2019 | VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



Dr. George Sehi, Board Chair

## A Message from the Board Chair

I take pleasure in presenting you another edition of **CARE**, the official publication of Women Walking West (W3).

2018 was a very successful year for Women Walking West. The total number of women we served reached over 90 who have come to the US from 33 different countries. We hosted our Inaugural Gala in November 2018. The gala was incredibly successful, especially

since W3 is only three years old. I am very pleased to report to you that over 400 people registered and 365 people attended the gala. By all measures this was an unbelievable success. Such tremendous turnout shows the overwhelming support of the community for the mission of Women Walking West. It is worth noting that, amongst the gala attendees, were naturalized American citizens from 13 different countries showing their support of W3. Because of the success of the Inaugural Gala the Women Walking West Board has decided to host our second gala on Thursday November 14, 2019.

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## Mission

**W3's mission is to remove language, social, cultural, academic, and financial barriers that foreign born adult women experience in the U.S. This mission helps instill an environment of connections that creates a base of support to provide opportunities for women to overcome difficulties and therefore achieve their lifelong professional and personal goals.**

## Values

**To create a culture that includes our core values: Compassion, Academic Success, Respect and Empathy (CARE).**



The Women Walking West Board would like to thank the 400 people who registered for the Women Walking West Inaugural Gala at the Manor House!

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Thank You!

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W3 NEWSLETTER

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As an organization we must focus on our vision and the growing desire to provide educational support for foreign born women to demonstrate real outcomes and results for our stakeholders. We accomplish this by focusing on short and long term plans for Women Walking West. To that end, the W3 Board of Directors will host a retreat in January 2019 to develop a strategy that will allow us to serve more women as well as improving the entire spectrum of services we provide.

As we move forward, we pledge to be good stewards while spending our human and capital resources and to be responsible to those who are simply coming to us with the hopes and dreams of getting more education and improving the quality of their lives.

The tremendous success of Women Walking West is due to the commitment of our Board of Directors, professional mentors, volunteers and the generous donors that provide a winning plan for our future to help **"one woman at a time"**.

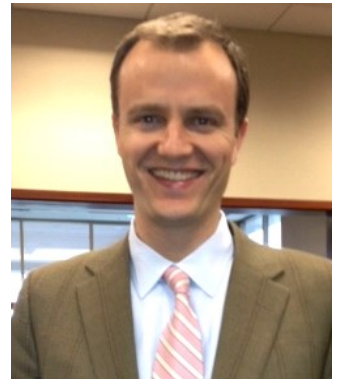
## Caring Community Partner

Performance Lexus supports Women Walking West because education is a key pillar of the community and is vital to future success. An educated community is one that is vibrant and attractive to new residents and businesses alike. General Manager, Dan Kommeth said, "Our company motto is 'Every customer, every vehicle, every day' which aligns very well with Women Walking West's mission statement that every life has equal value."

When asked why Performance Lexus chooses to partner with Women Walking West, Mr. Kommeth said, "We share common values. Performance Lexus is committed to diversity not only because it's the right thing to do but because we are part of a multi-cultural community here in the Mason/Deerfield Township area. We have families from all over the globe that relocate to our region, and we want them to feel comfortable doing business with a company that recognizes the diversity in our community."

Performance Lexus is not just a business in the Mason/Deerfield community but also a part of the fabric that makes it so great. The associates at Performance Lexus believe that they give of themselves first in order to receive something in return. When the community sees that Performance Lexus is involved with local charities, schools and civic organizations, they understand that involvement is a commitment to the long term health and vibrancy of the area.

Performance Lexus was one of the first Lexus dealerships in the United States, opening in 1989. Mr. Kommeth stated, "We continue to be one of the leading stores in the Midwest and pride ourselves on being an 18-time winner of the Elite of Lexus award, their most prestigious designation for dealerships. We are also the 3-time winner (2015 – 17) of DealerRater.com's #1 Lexus dealership in the state of Ohio. Our staff has over 400 years of experience and we truly live by the Lexus principle of treating each customer as we would a guest in our own home."



Dan Kommeth, General Manager  
Performance Lexus

**Women Walking West appreciates the support of Performance Lexus.**

### Easy Ways to Support W3

1. Shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Women Walking West as your organization that you support.
2. Designate Women Walking West as your Kroger rewards organization. Sign into your Kroger account (or create an account with your plus card) at: <http://krogercommunityrewards.com> select our organization by using W3 ID #DX899 Then, every time you use your plus card, a portion of your purchase will come back to W3!





# INAUGURAL

# Gala

The Women Walking West Inaugural Gala was a night of inspiration with amazing speakers and a lot of fun!

We would like to thank all of the presenters, sponsors, donors, volunteers and guests. It was a truly special evening celebrating the success of Women Walking West.

Thank you, again, for all of your support and commitment to help women achieve their educational dreams.



*Pictured top photos: The Honorable Judge Marilyn Zayas, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, Dr. George Sehi, Mrs. Dena Cranley, Mrs. Shakila Ahmed Mr. Tom Daskalakis and Dr. George Sehi | Dr. Zaiba Malik | Pictured bottom photos: Mrs. Hanri Hoshang, Mrs. Bitra Shafie, Mrs. Farzaneh Bucher Mrs. Norma Rashid | Dr. Aman Ahmed, Mrs. Shabana Ahmed, Dr. Zaiba Malik | Ms. Ernestine Manirambona*

## Mentor Matt Stepanek

I am from the Cleveland area where my mom still teaches fifth grade. I moved to Cincinnati in 2017 to manage a bank branch in Mason, Ohio. I believe that anyone should be able to pursue an education regardless of race, religion, status, or creed. I have great mentors in my life and I want to do what I can to help others find success.

I was introduced to Women Walking West through Dr. George Sehi, who I met through the Mason-Deerfield Chamber. We had the opportunity to talk in detail about the mission of Women Walking West. George is so passionate about bettering the education of foreign born women and I wanted to do what I could to help. I joined Women Walking West as a mentor and later that week was paired with my mentee, Ernestine Manirambona, because of her interest in starting a career in finance.

Ernestine is an incredibly driven individual who will find great success in everything she does. It takes a special person to double major while working two jobs after teaching herself English a few years before. I look forward to our meetings. We talk about networking, the interview process, career goals, life goals, and our cultures. We set challenges to work on skills that are necessary for the business world. We share books, podcast, and YouTube channels that we find interest in. My experience as a mentor has been great.

I am grateful to work with Women Walking West. It is a new organization with an important mission which better the lives of women in this area. Everyone at this organization is dedicated to the mission and want to see the women we help do great things.



*Matt Stepanek*

Advancing Education for Women:

SECOND ANNUAL

*Gala*

SAVE THE DATE...

Thursday, November 14, 2019, from 6 - 9 p.m.

Manor House Banquet & Conference Center  
7440 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040

## W3 Board

### **George H. Sehi, Ph.D. Chair**

Executive Director for University Relations  
Warren County Educational Service Center

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Attorney at Law  
Graydon

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Executive Director  
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## Featured Board Member Vijaya Reddy

I am a woman that immigrated to the United States about 17 years ago to follow my dream of pursuing further education and establishing my career as a physician. I have personally faced many professional and personal challenges and have overcome them in my pursuit of my career goals.

My personal and professional background echoes with my belief in Women Walking West (W3). I always had the desire to help women, especially the underprivileged and disadvantaged. W3 gave me a great platform to serve and contribute to this great cause and mission. Women Walking West has the philosophy of providing foreign born women the necessary opportunities needed to succeed in school and in life.

My parents and family encouraged and believed in my ability to pursue any profession of my choice and have always stood by me cheering for and supporting me. I believe that women are very strong and are capable of anything that they are determined to do. Women Walking West provides that support and mentoring to help women attain success and reach the stars.

As a physician at UC health, I am proud of being a collaborative sponsor and aligning our goals and mission of both the organizations together. UC health has been a great supporter of Women Walking West in terms of providing sponsorship at The Annual Gala and other events. UC health is committed to improving the health of all people – regardless of race, ethnicity, geography or ability to pay by fostering groundbreaking medical research and education, delivering outstanding primary and specialty care services and building a diverse workforce.



*Vijaya Reddy, MD  
Internal Medicine/Geriatric  
UC Health*



Women Walking West

Advancing education for women from across the globe

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