

*Compassionate
Academic Success
Respect
Empathy*

W Women Walking West

Advancing education for women from across the globe

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).

Advancing Education for Women 3rd Annual Gala

The circumstances of this year have required many difficult decisions to be made by organizations across the globe. Due to the guidelines set forth for group gatherings in Ohio, and in the interest of the health and wellbeing of all of you, our in-person Gala Event has been changed to a virtual benefit - the "Pour for a Purpose" Bourbon Raffle & Fundraiser.



*Dr. George Sehi,
Board Chair*

A Message from the Board Chair

It is my privilege to offer you another edition of CARE, the official publication of Women Walking West (W3). It is my intention to keep you informed of our activities and accomplishments.

We have mounted a response to help our mentees due to the challenges driven by COVID-19. The current coronavirus pandemic has impacted foreign students throughout the nation. Institutions of higher learning are quickly reacting to how the corona outbreak is impacting domestic students, but they haven't focused as much attention on international students living in the United States. As an example, several of our mentees have lost their jobs and are facing financial hardship trying to make ends meet while maintaining their visa status. W3 staff are keeping a close eye on the COVID-19 situation and are committed to being sensitive and responsive to interruptions or complications caused by the spread of the virus. *Continued on page 2*

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W3 Newsletter

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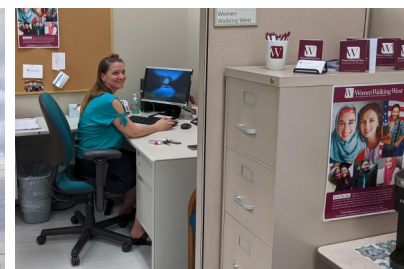
Message from the board chair
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We have called all of our mentees to see how W3 can help them, at this uncertain time. We are very thankful to the Islamic Center of Mason for providing groceries and gift cards and for making every effort to ensure that our mentees are getting adequate support so that they can continue their education and achieve their educational goals.

While COVID-19 has changed our world and has negatively impacted our economy, the need to provide financial support for the women we serve has never been higher. Unfortunately we have canceled our Third Annual Gala due to COVID-19. However, we are launching a virtual fundraising campaign called "Pour for a Purpose" Bourbon Raffle & Fundraiser.

We are grateful for the continued support of our donors and hope, with your generosity, we will meet our projected revenue for 2020. Our fundraising campaign will begin on October 5th. Please watch our social media channels and website for further information. The campaign finale will be on November 5th, 2020. There will be a lot of information about Women Walking West and those we serve being posted throughout the campaign and raffle tickets for an amazing selection of fine bourbon will be sold during this time. We look forward to having a great time while celebrating W3 and raising funds to continue our work during this campaign.

On behalf of Women Walking West, I offer my heartfelt and sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors, donors, mentors and volunteer staff for their on-going support and commitment to help grow the organization; meeting the needs of foreign born women in achieving their educational goals, one woman at a time.



Community Partner: Sinclair Community College

Sinclair was founded in 1887 by David A. Sinclair, a Scottish immigrant. David was the chief executive of the Dayton YMCA and recognized that there were many in the community who didn't have the skills for the emerging economy of that time, which was rooted in heavy industry. So, he started a night school for skills such as machining and blueprint reading. He said, "Find the need and endeavor to meet it." Today, that continues to be the driving force behind Sinclair Community College.

Sinclair's three strategic priorities are Alignment, Growth and Equity. All of these are addressed with our partnership with Women Walking West. W3 helps Sinclair align to what is becoming an ever more diverse population, while addressing issues of equity for women seeking college education. Women Walking West and Sinclair share values in terms of promoting human development and inclusion, as well as celebrating diversity, all while striving for equity for everyone. Both are focused on giving people opportunities to realize their greatest contributions to society and to the economy, while fulfilling the pursuit of their dreams. Businesses are increasingly in need of highly skilled employees who are comfortable not only with emerging technologies, but also with working in diverse environments. The women graduating college with the support of W3 will bring all of those attributes to their regional economies, which will help those businesses flourish. As a result, Sinclair will grow and support growth – growth in the women who are being aided by W3, as well as growth in supporting an inclusive, equitable community.

Having Women Walking West housed on the Sinclair Mason Campus instantly helps Sinclair become a more diverse and equitable community while also helping W3 have a space to continue to grow their organization. Sinclair Mason is also host to a number of English as a Second Language courses offered in partnership with Warren County Aspire. This is a perfect fit for both organizations to be able to support each other. Sinclair Mason is really proud to be a catalyst to these two important organizations.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Festo is a Family-Owned Technology Company that Thrives on Diversity and Collaboration

By Alessandro Coppo – Chief Operating Officer for Festo RSC Mason/Head of Product Supply North America

Festo, a third-generation family-owned company with headquarters in Esslingen, Germany, is financially independent, socially committed, and global. Festo has national companies in 61 countries, including the United States, and offices in 176 countries. A guiding company principle is to act sustainably and to consider the consequences of actions in terms of generations, rather than calendar quarters. The generational view shapes how Festo relates to employees, customers, and communities.

Festo manufactures components that are used to automate factory machines and processes. A trusted partner, Festo helps customers create high-quality products through advanced technology solutions. Innovation at Festo arises from multi-disciplinary teams of men and women working collaboratively. Festo experiences daily the power of diversity – bringing many voices and perspectives together to solve engineering problems. In addition to improving productivity, engineering teams focus on reducing waste in manufacturing and finding ways to lower consumption of natural resources, including non-renewable energy.



Alessandro Coppo
Chief Operating Officer

For more than 40 years in the United States (and 80 years globally), Festo has helped improve manufacturing by offering exceptional customer support. In 2013, Festo invested in a new, state-of-the-art North American Regional Service Center in Mason, Ohio. Covering more than 200,000 square feet, with plans to expand to 500,000, this centrally located plant is a state-of-the-art product supply organization comprised of logistics, production, purchasing, and engineering, with guaranteed short delivery times and excellent delivery reliability.

Festo has a training arm. The company's Didactic business is a global leader in developing hands-on equipment for technical training centers and delivering technical training. Festo also actively promotes apprenticeship programs – programs that expand employment opportunities by financially compensating men and women apprentices while they learn about automation at community colleges and then apply their new skills through on-the-job training.

When Festo's team at the Mason Regional Service Center was informed of the extent of the not-for-profit's regional work and the many successes and enriched lives achieved through Women Walking West initiatives, Festo immediately saw the value of joining forces with that organization. Helping to prepare people from diverse backgrounds for employment has been part of Festo's mission for more than 80 years. Festo wanted to be associated with Women Walking West's important, caring, and life-enhancing work.



Islamic Center of Mason

Women Walking West would like to thank the Islamic Center of Mason (ICM) for their thoughtful and generous support during this time of COVID-19. ICM provided groceries or gift cards for groceries to selected W3 mentees that live in the Cincinnati/Dayton Region. This was a huge support to these mentees and their families who were impacted by the pandemic. Women Walking West is very appreciative of having community supporters like ICM.

Another recent example of how ICM supports our local community was their outreach to West Chester Hospital. From the COVID onset, ICM provided meals each Friday directly to the front line care team and providers taking care of COVID patients. Tom Daskalakis (West Chester Hospital Chief Administrative Officer) had this to say about the Islamic Center of Masons generosity, "Their thoughtfulness gave our providers the support and encouragement needed to continue our commitment to serve each and every individual that walked through our doors. In this challenging time their kindness gave our team an intangible and invaluable gift: a sense of gratitude that lifted the spirits."

The Islamic Center of Mason hopes to be a model for the community, by embracing traditional Islamic practices and values while serving humanity. To find out more about ICM, please visit their website: www.masonmasjid.com.

W3 Board

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Xavier University



*Sherry Taylor, President, CEO
Mason Deerfield Chamber*

Featured Board Member: Sherry Taylor

I became involved with Women Walking West because of my experiences with immigrants growing up. My mother taught ESL (English as a Second Language) when I was a child. I was always fascinated by the stories she would tell me of interesting people she was meeting through the programs she worked with. At a young age, I was exposed to the possibilities for immigrants when they had

access to a quality education. Knowing that my Mom was making it possible by helping them to learn the English language was inspiring to me.

Additionally, I was inspired by my Mother-in-Law. She was a foreign exchange student from Ecuador in high school. While she was here, she met my Father-in-Law. Her education provided her the opportunity to visit the US and she quickly became dedicated in her pursuit to make it her home. She became a US citizen, went to college as an adult, and recently retired from teaching Spanish at the high school where I met my husband.

I am blessed by the mission of Women Walking West every single day. I joined the W3 Board to be a part of growing efforts to continue to champion women in pursuit of extending and reaching their educational goals.

Easy Ways to Support W3

1. AMAZON

At www.smile.amazon.com select Women Walking West as the organization that you support next time you shop.

2. KROGER

Designate Women Walking West as your Kroger rewards organization. Sign in to your Kroger account (or create an account with your plus card at: 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, without affecting your plus card points!

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 **Women Walking West**

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