

*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).*

## A Message from the Board Chair

I take pleasure in presenting you with another edition of CARE, the official publication of Women Walking West.

Women Walking West is and should be focused on its mission and the growing demand for the services we provide for foreign-born women who are residing in the United States legally. The need for supporting foreign-born women has never been greater. The potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the population we serve are numerous. Most obviously, many schools around the country remain closed, affecting their students directly. Research has shown a host of other potential concerns related to COVID-19 that either directly or indirectly affect women's education and ultimately, their overall wellbeing. Another of the problems facing foreign-born women during the pandemic is their inability to work and support themselves. This is especially troubling since 50% of the women we assist are on student visas and are not allowed to work more than 20 hours a week. However, Women Walking West and its caring volunteer staff and mentors are in regular contact with their mentees and are committed to being sensitive and responsive to the interruptions or complications caused by the spread of the virus.

To sustain and grow Women Walking West we continue generating funds to serve even more women. I am pleased to inform you that we have helped over 125 women from 39 different countries and the number is increasing.



*Dr. George Sehi,  
Board Chair*

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## 2020 Virtual Fundraising Campaign and Bourbon Raffle a Success!

We would like to thank **Bluegrass Carryout** for their partnership on this event and our generous sponsors, raffle participants and donors for their support of our Pour for a Purpose Bourbon Raffle and Fundraising Campaign. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to achieve our fundraising goal for 2020! We had over 80 generous sponsors and over 275 raffle tickets sold. The list of sponsors may be viewed on our website.

A virtual event is something new for us and we could not have made it a success without all of your support! On behalf of the Women Walking West Board of Directors, **thank you!**

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# W3 Newsletter

JANUARY 2021 | VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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To that end, I am pleased to share with you that our 2020 Fundraising Campaign was very successful due to the generosity of our corporate sponsors, local industry, government and private sectors as well as individual donors.

I encourage you to watch our social media channels and website for more information and to stay up to date as we grow the organization. Please feel free to share our contact information with potential mentees whom you may come in contact with.

On behalf of Women Walking West and its Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to donors, mentors, and volunteer staff for their unwavering support and commitment to help us grow and to meet the educational needs of foreign-born women, *One woman at a time.*

## Dr. Nasrin Shahinpoor & Ms. Xiuhan Yang

I was assigned by Women Walking West (W3) to serve as a mentor to Ms. Xiuhan Yang in September of 2017. At that time, Ms. Yang was working on her research project for her graduate studies at the University of Cincinnati. We met several times online and discussed her paper and how I could help her with writing, editing, and data analysis. We worked on the paper together for more than two years. The paper was accepted for publication in a journal entitled: *Transportation Planning and Technology* in June 2020.

The title of the paper is "Analysis of Parking Cruising Behavior and Parking Location Choice." Both Ms. Yang and I are listed as co-authors. I enjoyed working with Ms. Yang and I am very proud of her for her hard work and work ethic/planning. I would also like to thank Women Walking West for giving me this opportunity to serve as a mentor to very talented young women who are pursuing their education in the United States.



Dr. Nasrin Shahinpoor  
Professor of Economics  
and International Studies,  
Hanover College

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*“When undergraduates have a mentor, they are twice as likely to thrive after college. But only 1 in 5 have had these relationships.”*

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*The Chronicle of Higher Education*

## The Said Eyada Endowment Fund

Being a woman who immigrated to this part of the globe 22 years ago, I am fully mindful of all the difficulties women confront and have to braze when they set foot in this country and don't find a helping hand. These women face so many challenges. Starting with a language barrier, drastic cultural and social differences, religious conflict and numerous disparate hurdles. Assuming these are not tackled in a professional way from the very beginning, it may lead to people shutting down and just living in their own isolated bubble, which is unquestionably not the reason why they came to this country. The immense diversity that has been born in this country over the years, as a result of all of the immigrants who embarked on these grounds, has intently enriched and improved everyone's lives and we need to keep working on making it even better.



My dad has been my greatest empowerment throughout my life, ever since I was a little girl. His acts of kindness were not random, they were frequent and faithful. He has been my backbone and support throughout each and every step of the way to get to where I am and to be whom I've become. I can stand up and be absolutely proud of myself. His provision, trust and faith were boundless. I know that making him the center of attention like this would not be his idea of fun but his years of hard work, love and dedication must be credited back. He has always been quietly supporting me and my siblings and helping us all in the background with huge affection and a kind, gentle humor that is still there today. I was always assured that if one day I would fall, he would be the first hand to reach out and pick me up. Even now as a grown woman with kids of my own, his tender care has never lessened. As a matter of fact, I feel it keeps growing as time goes by. This is why I have chosen to honor my Dad with an endowment to Women Walking West.



## Community Partner:



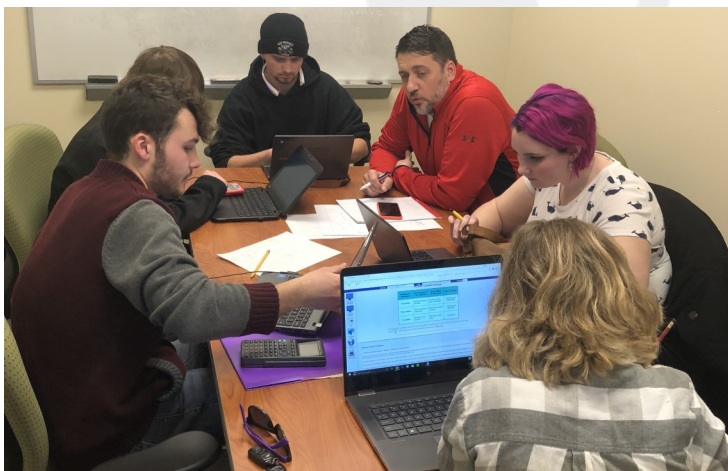
## Greater Ohio Virtual School

The Greater Ohio Virtual School's mission is to provide students with a highly personal and continuous connection to learning through an online-based education. The school deems that this quality instructional alternative will serve individual needs and prepare the student to transition into their next phase of life, be it entering the work force, military, or continuing their education. The Greater Ohio Virtual School's educational philosophy can be summarized with the following statements:

- **We will deliver instruction to students in a cost-effective manner and in a manner that allows them to earn high school credit at a self-determined pace.**
- **We will strive to take students at their current academic levels, build upon that foundation, and increase achievement at developmentally appropriate rates and levels.**
- **We will provide applicable skills that will allow students to be lifelong learners and intelligent decision makers.**

Woven into the school is the belief that effective education is a cooperative venture between the students, parents/guardians, teachers and support staff. Furthermore, in many instances, the local public schools, organizations and social services provide valuable support. In short, a teaming process will be critical to the success of the program.

The Executive Director of the Greater Ohio Virtual School was asked why diversity and inclusion are important to them. He answered, "Diversity and inclusion are important to the Greater Ohio Virtual School because many of our students come to us having dealt with circumstances concerning those very issues. As a school for at-risk students it is imperative that we create



a climate for our students that is welcoming regardless of their prior experiences. In many cases we are the lifeboat for students who are in danger of dropping out of school, and without an understanding of diversity or the lack of a climate based on inclusion, we would not be able to serve our student population appropriately. Simply put, without a foundation of diversity and inclusion at the Greater Ohio Virtual School our students would find it difficult to experience success and earn a diploma."

A few years ago, the Greater Ohio Virtual School experienced a population increase of adult students who were English Learners. At the time the school did not have the ability to serve those students appropriately. Executive Director, Shawn Lenney states, "As resources and support were put into place to help serve those students, Women Walking West offered a helping hand to guide us on how to serve our English Learners appropriately. Women Walking West offered free mentoring to some of those students as well as working closely with and supporting our new English Learner Coordinator. With their help, the Greater Ohio Virtual School graduated its first English Learners during the 2019-2020 school year with more on track to graduate in the future. Women Working West has partnered with the Greater Ohio Virtual School to help students graduate and that is why we support the program! On top of specifically helping us, Women Walking West is helping the Workforce in the region by offering support and mentorship to individuals who need an extra hand to get on the right path to success. The support alone will pay dividends when those individuals either graduate or find career paths in the area. That is a direct positive impact to the workforce in the region."

## W3 Board

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*Janice B. Walker, PhD  
Vice President Institutional Diversity  
and Inclusion, Xavier University*

## Featured Board Member: Janice B. Walker, PhD

Upon learning about the mission and activities of Women Walking West, I knew that I wanted to be involved. I grew up in small towns in the South in a racially segregated society. From there, I chose to pursue graduate studies in mathematics at the University of Michigan. Adjusting to the culture, environment (especially the weather!), and demands of a program which had relatively few

women or underrepresented minorities was not easy, but I worked hard, persevered and succeeded. These experiences enable me to understand, on some level, the challenges and barriers that foreign-born women face upon their arrival into this country and entry into this society.

As I reflect on my journey, I am deeply grateful for the support I received from others along the way, especially the counsel and assistance of mentors as well as the financial aid awarded to me from educational institutions. Therefore, it is natural and fitting that I would be drawn to W3; its mission and core values align perfectly with my own.

More importantly, I have witnessed the profound impact that W3 has had on the lives of many women; helping them achieve their goals, live out their dreams, and become their best selves. Therefore, I am proud to be a W3 board member and look forward to further collaborations with a diverse, talented group of committed individuals who diligently strive to make a positive difference for the women they serve.

## Easy Ways to Support W3

### 1. AMAZON

At [www.smile.amazon.com](http://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](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, without affecting your plus card points!



Advancing education for women from across the globe

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