

*Compassionate  
Academic Success  
Respect  
Empathy*

# W Women Walking West

Advancing education for women from across the globe

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## 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).*



Dr. George Sehi, Founder & Board Chair

## A Message from the Board Chair & Founder

Dear Friends and Dedicated Supporters,

As we reach the halfway mark of our 10th anniversary year at Women Walking West (W3), we find ourselves reflecting not just on how far we've come—but on the incredible impact we've made together.

Over the past decade, this organization has grown from a bold vision into a powerful movement—one that has provided a pathway to education and hope for foreign-born women in our community.

None of this would be possible without you. To our founding supporters, board members, mentors, volunteers, and donors—thank you. Your belief in our mission is the heartbeat of our work. With your unwavering support, we have proudly served over 250 mentees from 57 countries, awarded more than \$70,000 in financial assistance, and built a network of 170 incredible volunteers and mentors. These numbers tell a story of transformation—of lives changed, dreams realized, and barriers overcome.

I warmly invite you to our 6th Annual Fundraising Gala—a special evening **Celebrating 10 Years of Impact: Empowering Women. Changing Lives. Building Futures.** This inspiring event will uplift the stories of the women we serve and rally support for the work ahead.

The need for our services remains great, and our journey is far from over. Let us recommit to lifting up every woman striving for a better life through education. With your continued partnership, we will keep opening doors and hearts for the next decade and beyond, one woman at a time.

## Featured Mentee

### Caren P. Kudozto

Women Walking West mentee, Caren P. Kudozto, recently graduated from Miami University with a Masters in Social Work and is already working at a non-profit organization as a social worker. Caren shared this heartfelt note with us:

“Thanks to your incredible mentorship program, I was paired with Sharon Custer, an extraordinary woman whose kindness, wisdom, and dedication have had a profound impact on my life. From the very beginning, Sharon went above and beyond to support me. She met with me regularly, often more than once a month, to help me navigate both academic and personal challenges. She worked closely with me to build a strong and professional resume, offered invaluable job search advice, and connected me with opportunities and references that I would not have had access to otherwise”



Dr. Sharon Custer & Caren Kudozto

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Save the Date: 6th  
Annual RISE Gala

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Dr. Attari and his mother and father at their US Citizenship Ceremony

## Featured Endowment

### Dr. Attari Family Endowment

My father was a high school math teacher, and my mother was a homemaker with a high school diploma. Although she devoted herself fully to raising our family, my mother always regretted not having the opportunity to pursue higher education. Because of this, she made it her mission to instill a deep love of learning in all her children—especially her daughters. My father was equally supportive of our education and encouraged us to dream big.

*“From an early age, I came to understand both the immense value of education and the many obstacles that exist—particularly for women—in our part of the world.”*

From an early age, I came to understand both the immense value of education and the many obstacles that exist—particularly for women—in our part of the world.

When I learned about WWW, it felt as if a long-standing hope had been answered. I shared the idea with my parents, and they were both deeply enthusiastic—especially since they were close friends of Dr. Sehi and admired his passion for this cause. With their blessing, and with my own deep desire to support education for those in need, we made the decision to establish this endowment.

I know firsthand how many barriers still stand in the way of education for women around the world. I also firmly believe that a society can only truly thrive when women are valued, empowered, and well-educated. For this reason, I believe there is no cause more worthy than helping to open doors for women and girls through education. This is even more true for those who come to this country in hope of a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

I hope this endowment will help WWW in supporting an increasing number of women in their journey to reach their potentials.

# HAPPENINGS!

## Education Across Generations

In March 2025, we proudly partnered with the Joint Women’s Collaborative (JWC) of Wyoming for an inspiring evening focused on exploring the role of Education Across Generations of women.

We heard inspiring stories from Yanthi Boutwell, Vice President of Region Services for Duke Energy Midwest, shared her family’s immigration journey from Indonesia; Dr. Tsehey Williams, a neurologist and first-generation college student; Mary Lippleman Corley, a long-time Wyoming resident, who reflected on decades of nonprofit work; and Jordan Green, who passionately highlighted her mother’s strength.



Mary Lippleman Corley, Jordan Green, Dr. Tsehey Williams, and Yanthi Boutwell

Through the powerful stories from these local women leaders, we celebrated how education shapes lives across time.

## Panel in Mason High School

In collaboration with the City of Mason, Deerfield Township, and Mason City Schools, we hosted a panel discussion titled Women in Leadership: Shaping Our Communities at Mason High School. The event featured Trustee Kristin Malhotra of Deerfield Township, Madeline Iseli Senior Vice President at Sinclair College, Councilmember Joy Bennett from the City of Mason, and Abby Melampy Director of Government and Community Relations at Duke Energy.

Each panelist shared her unique journey—including the path to education, early career experiences, and professional growth—highlighting the realities and challenges faced along the way. Common themes emerged: the importance of adaptability, turning obstacles into opportunities, remaining open to change, and showing up when it matters most.

The discussion also included powerful personal stories about overcoming adversity, the support systems that sustained them, and their aspirations for the next generation of female leaders.



Panelists and audience members at the panel discussion

# Caring Community Partner

Tom Isaacs, Warren County Educational Service Center (WCESC)

Tom Isaacs, is CEO and Superintendent of the Warren County Educational Service Center (WCESC)—a vital organization supporting both students and educators across the county in their academic and personal growth.

In reflecting on the most fulfilling aspects of his role, Mr. Isaacs shared that one of the greatest joys of his work is witnessing the happiness and sense of accomplishment on students' faces as they experience success. Many students in WCESC programs have had limited opportunities for positive reinforcement, and the organization is deeply committed to recognizing each student's strengths. "We meet students where they are," Mr. Isaacs explains, "and we are fortunate to be part of their journey toward independence and community integration."

*"We meet students where they are, and we are fortunate to be part of their journey toward independence and community integration."*



Tom Isaacs, CEO & Superintendent, WCESC

When asked about the challenges of his position and what a typical day entails, Mr. Isaacs emphasized the dynamic nature of his work. No two days are the same, but what remains constant is the focus on student-centered support and collaborative leadership.

In describing his leadership style, Mr. Isaacs is quick to credit his team. "I am surrounded by amazing team members, and if I have any impact, it is that I support and encourage their work every day." He believes in the power of teamwork, where shared goals and mutual encouragement lead to greater outcomes for students. His commitment extends beyond the school setting, as he actively supports inclusive community initiatives such as the Mason Challenger League, Cincinnati TopSoccer, and Tim Tebow's Night to Shine. "By supporting our students outside of school, I hope that community members and students experience life together."



Mr. Isaacs also reflected on the role WCESC plays in supporting international and foreign-born students. As the population of Warren County becomes increasingly diverse, WCESC programs have seen a growing representation of international students. "Our programs reflect the diversity of our school communities, and we are proud to support all students, including those from international backgrounds."

Looking ahead, Mr. Isaacs envisions a responsive and evolving future for WCESC. "We will always serve students with disabilities, and our programs are continuously adapted to meet their changing needs. We are prepared to open new programs whenever existing ones do not meet the needs of our students." His vision over the next five years includes expanding services, strengthening community partnerships, and continuing to ensure that every student—regardless of background—feels valued and empowered to succeed.



Warren County  
Educational Service Center

## GOOD NEWS!

For a second year in a row we received funding and support from The Hamilton Community Foundation. The Mentorship, Technology and Workforce Readiness program aims to support 6-10 mentees from the City of Hamilton and surrounding communities in the program.

The Joint Women's Collaborative (JWC) of Wyoming awarded Women Walking West a grant to support our mentees with professional development and leadership building activities.



## W3 Board

**George H. Sehi, Ph.D., Chair**  
Former Executive Dean and Professor,  
Sinclair College

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Sciences, Miami University

**Yanthi Boutwell**  
Vice President of Region Services  
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Mason Deerfield Chamber

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Senior Director, Research & Development  
Procter & Gamble

## Featured Board Member

### Yanthi Boutwell

Yanthi Boutwell is the Vice President of Region Services for Duke Energy Midwest. In this role, she has responsibility for Midwest Engineering, Health & Safety, and Power Grid Operations (PGO) Projects for both Transmission and Distribution. Yanthi has over 25 years of experience in the electric utility industry. She has held various leadership roles within Duke Energy. Prior to joining Duke Energy, she worked as an engineer for Alabama Power in Birmingham, AL and for Allegheny Power in Greensburg, PA. Yanthi holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Master of Business Administration from Xavier University. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Alabama.



*Yanthi Boutwell, Vice President of Region Services for Duke Energy Midwest*

Yanthi and her husband (Brett) live in West Chester, OH, and they have two daughters (Caitlin & Alyssa). Yanthi was born in Bandung, Indonesia. Her family immigrated to the United States (Birmingham, AL) when she was a teenager. She experienced similar challenges to many of the Women Walking West mentees, such as cultural adjustments and dealing with language barriers. Growing up, her parents made sacrifices to allow her and siblings to thrive in their new country. They were strong role models for her and helped inspire her to give back to the community and assist other immigrants to succeed. Yanthi is honored to be a part of the Women Walking West Board.

*Save the Date!*

6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**RISE** Gala

CELEBRATING OUR  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025  
6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Manor House  
Banquet & Conference Center  
7440 Mason Montgomery Road,  
Mason, OH 45040

To purchase tickets or to sponsor a table visit: [WomenWalkingWest.org](http://WomenWalkingWest.org)

 **Women Walking West**

Advancing education for women from across the globe