

## 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: to Reach, Include, Support & Educate (RISE).

## W3 Newsletter

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Dr. George Sehi, Founder & Board Chair

## A Message from the Board Chair & Founder

Dear Friends and Dedicated Supporters,

As we step into 2026, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and renewed hope for what lies ahead for Women Walking West (W3). Last year marked a powerful milestone as we celebrated our 10th anniversary—a decade of walking alongside foreign-born women as they pursue education, opportunity, and a more secure future.

Over these past ten years, W3 has grown beyond what I imagined. What began as a bold idea has become a thriving organization grounded in compassion, partnership, and impact. The publication of **“RISE: Stories from Women Walking West”** stands as a testament to that journey—amplifying the voices, resilience, and courage of the women we serve and reminding us why this work matters so deeply. None of this growth or success would be possible without the steadfast commitment of our board members, volunteers, mentors, donors, and community partners. You are the foundation of W3. I am also grateful for the over 500 guests who joined us at our 10th anniversary gala in 2025—your generosity made that celebration truly meaningful.

We enter our next decade of service with clarity and purpose. The need remains great, and our commitment is unwavering. We are excited to welcome new staff member, PJ Wolf, whose passion and leadership strengthen our capacity for the work ahead.

Together, we will continue to open doors, expand access to education, and uplift women who are building new lives for themselves and their families. I invite you to stay connected; follow W3 on social media, and join us at upcoming events as we carry this mission forward.

**Thank you for believing in Women Walking West—With your continued partnership, we will keep opening doors and hearts for the next decade and beyond, one woman at a time.**



Our 6th Annual RISE Gala & 10th Anniversary Celebration. Pictured from left to right: George Sehi, PJ Wolf, Sherry Taylor, Yanthi Boutwell, Marian Glancy, Dwight Packard, Prekshya Nepal, Jonathan Cooper, Cathy Bishop-Clark, Macarena Cloninger, Ivy Banks, and Fatemeh Hajhosseini. Story on page 2

Free English Online!

# Everyday English Program

• LEARN • CONNECT • MAKE FRIENDS

TIME: 9:30-11:00 am | 2026 DATES:

January 9 & 23

May 1, 15 & 29

February 6 & 20

June 12 & 26

March 6 & 20

July 10 & 24

April 3 & 17

Sponsored by:

For more information or to register, [click here](#).



Macarena Cloninger, Senior Vice President, Cintas



Liz Bonis, WKRC-TV Local 12



Dr. George Sehi, Founder & Board Chair, Dwight Packard, Vice Chair, JD Advisor, Attorney at Law, Bricker Graydon LLP



Marzieh Hatamzadeh, M.S., Dr. George Sehi, Founder & Board Chair,



Christopher Hubbard, Sinclair Community College

## Welcome to W3!

Meet our Office Administrator, PJ Wolf

PJ joined W3 in July 2025 and is managing our administrative responsibilities of internal operations, along with our LinkedIn and website content.

A Xavier graduate, PJ brings a wealth of business, and management skills to facilitate and elevate our growing mission. Welcome to the Women Walking West team!



PJ Wolf, W3 Office Administrator

## Annual RISE Gala & 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

More than 500 guests joined Women Walking West for a truly memorable evening as we celebrated our 10th Anniversary at our 6th Annual RISE Gala on November 13, 2025. The night reflected on a decade of impact, resilience, and hope.

Our gracious emcee, **Liz Bonis of WKRC-TV Local 12**, guided the evening with warmth insight, drawing on her long-standing connection to W3. Keynote speaker **Macarena Cloninger, Senior Vice President at Cintas**, delivered an inspiring message of gratitude, and determination, encouraging mentors and mentees to embrace a “find a way” mindset.

We extend sincere thanks to our Co-Chair presenters, **Ivy Banks, M.Ed., J.D.** of Xavier University and **Ed Kuresman, CFA of MAI Capital Management**, as well as our talented performers—MUSE Cincinnati Women’s Choir, Eunwha Lee, and Anupa Mirlle with the Nriyarpna School of Performing Arts—for enriching the evening.

**Board Member Dwight Packard** offered a heartfelt tribute honoring Dr. George Sehi, Founder and Board Chair, recognizing his vision and dedication.

### *Congratulations to our 2025 awards recipients:*

*Mentor of the Year - Marzieh Hatamzadeh, M.S.*

*Beacon Award - Christopher Hubbard, Sinclair Community College*

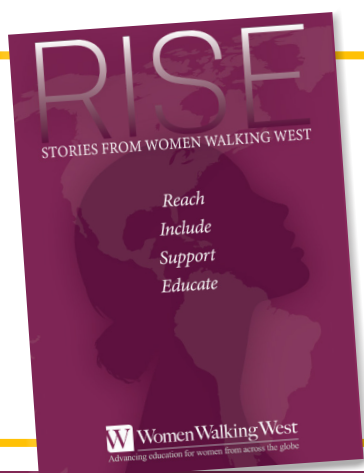
## Stories From Women Walking West

To commemorate our 10th anniversary, W3 published our first book of essay stories from past Essay Content winners. Called **RISE: Stories from Women Walking West**, this table book showcases ten mentees from ten different countries. Their stories of resilience, strength, and overcoming tremendous challenges in pursuit of the American dream will touch your heart.

This limited edition book is available with a donation to W3.

Scan the QR code use this link to get your copy.

<https://givebutter.com/EssayBookDonation>



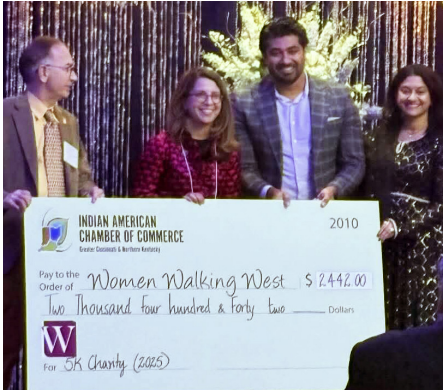
# Good News!



W3 was awarded a grant from **The Dayton Foundation** that is being used to design and execute our new **Everyday English Program**. The curriculum for this online program is offered every other Friday for 90 minutes and runs for 10 months.

The **Indian American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)** held a 5k Run in Mason and W3 was awarded proceeds from this event. The funds were presented at their annual Diwali Gala.

We received a grant from the **United Way of Warren County** supporting our **Women's Leadership Program**.



Dr. George Sehi, Founder & Board Chair, Fatemeh Hajihosseini, Ph.D., Chief of Operations & Development with IACC Board Members



## Annual Essay Contest: "Dreaming in English"

Sponsored by North Side Bank & Trust, our 2025 essay contest invited participants to share personal stories shaped by language, resilience, and hope. Writers reflected on moments of 'feeling invisible' due to language barriers and their dreams now of speaking and thinking in English.

Judges Dr. Judy Lightner-Noll, Cassidy Schultes, and Patricia Fender selected three winners and four honorable mentions from over 35 submissions. The essays explored themes of identity, workplace challenges, motherhood across languages, accents, and the courage it takes to reclaim one's voice while dreaming in English.



First Prize Winner:  
Olga Klochkov



Second Prize:  
Nozina Eshkobilova



Third Prize:  
Laetitia Mujawamariya

Honorary Mention pictured below from left to right: **Ope Oguntuasi, Prekshya Nepal, Micaela Zagal and Saharnaz Ahmadi**



## Caring Community Partner

**Richard Royer, General Manager at Kings Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge**

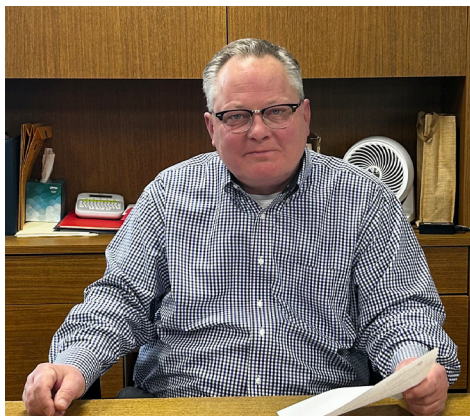
When Rick, General Manager of Kings Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge & Ram, first met Dr. George Sehi four years ago, he was immediately inspired by Dr. Sehi's personal story and his deep passion for helping women rise and succeed. As Rick learned more about Women Walking West, his admiration for the organization—and his desire to support its mission—continued to grow.

Rick believes true community involvement goes beyond business success. Giving back, he says, creates a ripple effect of generosity, and there is no greater reward than knowing a life has been positively impacted through that commitment. He is especially moved by the courage and resilience of the women served by Women Walking West and sees their pursuit of education and new opportunities as an investment that strengthens both the community and the workforce.

*"When women support and uplift one another, a powerful cycle of growth is created—one that strengthens both the community and the workforce."*

Looking ahead, Rick is confident that Kings Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge & Ram will remain an active supporter of Women Walking West. On a personal level, he is grateful to have met Dr. Sehi and to support an organization he says has enriched his own life. As Rick shares,

*"Community members and dedicated supporters make sure these stories are told and inspire others to rise up and help others do the same."*



Richard Royer, General Manager, Kings Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge & Ram

## W3 Board

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

**Dwight Packard**, Vice Chair  
JD Advisor Attorney at Law,  
Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP

**Judy Lightner-Noll, Ph.D.**, Secretary  
JLN Coaching

**Carey Curtis**, Treasurer  
Chief Commercial Officer,  
North Side Bank & Trust

**Ivy K. Banks, M.Ed., J.D.**  
Vice President, Legal Affairs  
Xavier University

**Cathy Bishop-Clark, Ed.D.**  
Former Associate Provost and Dean,  
College of Liberal Arts & Applied  
Science, Miami University - Regionals

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

**Macarena Cloninger**  
Senior Vice President,  
Cintas

**Jonathan Cooper, Ed.D.**  
CEO/Superintendent,  
Mason City Schools

**Tom Daskalakis**  
President,  
Clinton Memorial Hospital

**DeAnn Hurtado, Ph.D.**  
Professor,  
Sinclair Community College

**Dan Kommeth**  
Platform General Manager,  
SVG Automotive

**Prekshya Nepal**  
Data Scientist III,  
FedEx Ground

**Su Chang**  
Ex-Officio Board Member  
Senior Director,  
Research & Development,  
Procter & Gamble

## Featured Board Member

**Carey Curtis**,  
Chief Commercial Officer,  
Northside Bank & Trust

**NorthSideBank**  
AND TRUST COMPANY



Carey Curtis, Chief Commercial  
Officer Northside Bank & Trust

Carey joined the Women Walking West Board in 2017, inspired by the organization's mission to help women achieve their educational goals. As the father of three daughters, he felt a strong personal connection to W3's work—particularly its focus on empowering young women from foreign countries who may not have had access to education in their home nations.

A committed and passionate board member, Carey has served as Treasurer, helping guide W3's financial sustainability and long-term growth. In his professional role as Chief Commercial Officer at North Side Bank & Trust, Carey considers himself a servant leader, believing that when leaders genuinely care for their people, it strengthens both organizational culture and community impact.

Carey values mentorship as a powerful way to support aspiring students, noting that the experience fosters growth and confidence for both mentors and mentees. Founded in 1881, North Side Bank & Trust has served the community for generations and is a proud supporter of Women Walking West, including sponsorship of this year's W3 essay contest, Dreaming in English. Carey explains that the bank seeks partnerships that create lasting impact, making W3 a natural fit—especially in preparing women for meaningful participation in the workforce.

*“Supporting women’s education is essential to building a strong economy and a thriving community.”*

Through his board service and mentoring, Carey has seen firsthand the challenges faced by W3 mentees. He believes that investing in women's education strengthens the economy and reflects the promise of the American Dream. He is proud that North Side Bank & Trust will continue its support of W3, including the annual Gala.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Bookmark the W3 Events website page  
and save the dates for 2026 Events at:

[W3 Calendar of Events](#)

**Everday English Program (EEP)** - Free bi-weekly online classes are for anyone looking to boost their English speaking and reading skills. [Dates and RSVP here.](#)

**Leadership Discussion:** Meet & Greet with W3 Board Member Ivy Banks  
**Thurs., Jan. 15th, 6:00-7:30 pm.** for more information and to RSVP [click here.](#)

**Workforce Readiness: Wed. Feb. 25th, 6:00-7:30 pm** American College of Eye Technicians panel discussion for more information and to RSVP [click here.](#)

**Workforce Readiness: Thurs. April 9, 2026** at the Hamilton Library. For more information and to RSVP [click here.](#)

**Annual Pool Party and Potluck: Saturday Aug. 1, 2026**, Mason Aquatic Center, 6249 Mason Montgomery Rd, Mason, OH 45040

**7th Annual RISE Gala: Save the Date! Thursday November 12, 2026**

 **Women Walking West**

Advancing education for women from across the globe