



# 2016

## YOUNG WOMEN'S PREPARATORY NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT

*the sisterhood*

**"Education is my way out of poverty, out of struggle, out of hardship. I am thankful that one day I will be able to provide my family with everything that they need. My gratitude extends beyond what words can express. Education is empowering, and I am living proof of it."**

**- YWPN Student**

# Young Women's Preparatory Network

Our mission is to support single-gender, college-preparatory, public education in Texas and beyond, giving young women the academic and leadership skills to achieve success in college and in life.



Young Women's Preparatory Network (YWPN) engenders change in public education by using an innovative model, which supports public-private partnerships across Texas.

Through our partnership with public school districts, our schools offer a rigorous, college-preparatory environment, focused on AP and Pre-AP classes, an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math, (STEM) and educational enhancement based on our founding pillars of **College Readiness, Responsible Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills.**

We are the largest network of all girls' public schools in the nation, serving more than 4,400 students in 6th through 12th grades statewide, during the 2015-2016 school year. Since 2004, we have opened schools in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Houston, Lubbock, San Antonio, and Ysleta.

## Our Model



Through YWPN, public school districts agree to open and operate a single-gender, all-girls, college-preparatory public school.



YWPN supplies the expertise and funding, during several planning years, to bring the school to fruition.



Once operational, the district funds and staffs the school according to district guidelines.



After this time, YWPN continues to work with each school to raise funds within its specific community to support enhancement programming.



During the school's first years of operation, YWPN provides 100% of funding needed for crucial, campus-based, college-readiness enhancements to the school district curriculum.



YWPN's partnership with the school and district continues by providing standards and best practices necessary for student and campus success.

# A Letter from the CEO



To begin, I would like to say thank you! This year has been such an incredible success, due to the support of my hardworking staff, a devoted Board of Directors, an amazing community of school and financial supporters, and, of course, the young ladies that inspire the work that we do!

I am fortunate to have a remarkable team of women by my side. When I first started at YWPN, I was working with a limited staff of only two full-time employees and our development team consisted of one part-time employee. Throughout the last two years, we have strengthened the development team, and through their dedication and tireless work, we have been able to provide the schools with more enhancements and hire the other positions needed to make the organization great. Now, we have an All-star team that consists of eight of the most incredible women, whom are passionate about their work and come in every day prepared to tackle any task. To top it off, we have an extremely supportive Board of Directors, who are devoted to the support of the mission and were a vital part in the development of the Network's Strategic Plan for the next three years. Through this effort, we have a clear purpose to preserve, provide for, and systematically strengthen our mature schools, while remaining alert to opportunities for appropriate expansion.

When I reflect on the past year, I am humbled by the strength of our schools. We received the highest level of recognition by Guidestar for a non-profit organization; our San Antonio school was awarded the highly prestigious U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon, with our Lubbock and Fort Worth schools receiving nominations for this upcoming year; our schools in Austin and Dallas were listed amongst the top 125 High schools in the Nation for *U.S. News and World Report*; our Grand Prairie school received T-Stem designation from the Texas Education Agency; our Houston school qualified for the worldwide VEX Robotics competition; and throughout the year, there were countless student achievements in the areas of STEM, community service, and academics.

One of the most satisfying parts of my job is attending graduations, I am able to see firsthand the effectiveness and success of our model, not only through the graduates, but in the teary-eyed faces of their families, many of whom never could have imagined their daughters would find success through education. What an incredible treat to see the growth of these students from their initial entrance into our school, as hesitant 6th graders to confident, accomplished women.

This August, our eighth school, Young Women's Leadership Academy in Ysleta, opened its doors to over 240 intelligent, young ladies, eager to learn in the ultimate, educational environment. It is amazing to see Lee and Sally Posey's vision, originating with only one school in Dallas, now reaching the far borders of the great state of Texas!

Looking at all that has been accomplished in the last year, I am filled with hope for this upcoming year and the many more success stories to come. These young ladies have already proven to be trailblazers within their families and communities, I have the utmost belief that as they enter the professional world, they will be leaders of social change, tycoons in business, doctors of medicine and research, and renowned role models to young women everywhere!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn McBee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn McBee  
YWPN Chief Executive Officer



## College Readiness

In YWPN schools, it is not IF a student is going to college, it is WHERE they are going to college. From the moment they enter 6th grade, the CollegeBound culture is clear, through banners and posters, all school ceremonies, and the encouraging staff. The schools offer a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, raising expectations and increasing educational performance among the students.



### CollegeBound Advisors

A key part of College Readiness is having a full-time CollegeBound Advisor (CBA) on each campus to help students and their families navigate the admissions and financial aid process. Ensuring that we have the most capable and experienced CBAs to support and advocate for these students, we help not only with salaries, but also support their national and state college organization memberships, as well as, many opportunities for professional development.

This summer, we sent four of our CBAs to attend training at the Harvard Summer Institute on College Admissions, organized by Harvard University and The College Board. This nationally acclaimed program gave our CBAs the opportunity to learn from leaders in their field to better prepare our students on college admissions, financial aid, test preparation, and writing.

### Test Preparation

One of the biggest educational gaps that is strongly linked to financial status is standardized test scores. We provide resources for test preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT to help even the playing field for our students. This has been very beneficial for students across the network, especially Araceli Arizpe of the Young Women's Leadership Academy in San Antonio. She was selected as a National Merit Scholar in 2015-2016, one of 50,000 in the United States.

### College Visits

Our schools show the reality of college, during the middle school years onwards, by providing many opportunities for students to tour college campuses. Ultimately, this helps them in their final decision of selecting their best fit college by exposing them to the various campuses: public/private, rural/urban, liberal arts college/research universities. This year, students visited many schools across Texas and bordering states.

### Milestone Celebrations

The schools honor the students as they reach the various milestones in their academic success. Inspiring the younger students through recognizing these significant benchmarks, the girls celebrate through events, such as award dinners, college signing days, graduations, and alumnae days. This year, Young Women's Leadership Academy at Bill Arnold in Grand Prairie held its first ever Junior Ring Ceremony, starting a new tradition for the Class of 2017.

# Wellness Life Skills

We believe wellness life skills are critical to the long-term health and happiness of our young women. We stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle through daily physical activity, nutritional education, and making smart choices.



## Polishing up on Social Graces

Young Women's College Preparatory Academy in Houston worked with the Inner Change Consulting Group to teach a social etiquette class to empower the students, as they enter unfamiliar social environments. Students learned effective ways to build better self-esteem, use body language, strengthen interpersonal relationships, and increase opportunities for future success.

## YWPN Schools Hosts a Three Pillars Conference

Fort Worth's Young Women's Leadership Academy held its Three Pillars Conference, celebrating college, leadership, and health with nearly 50 presenters. The students learned new skills through workshops, which included career readiness, nursing, creative writing, and dance fitness.

## TWU Welcomes YWPN Students

YWPN's partnership with Texas Woman's University gave Irma Rangel students the opportunity to attend an overnight summer camp on a college campus. The program's goal is to prepare the students for life's challenges in the areas of nutrition, fitness, professional leadership, and overall physical well-being.



## YWPN Schools Face Off in Lacrosse Match

Our Dallas and Grand Prairie schools faced off in game one of the varsity lacrosse season. It was a hard fought battle, but in the end Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in Dallas scored the victory.

It was the first time two network schools have competed against each other in sports, and it was the inaugural season of lacrosse for Young Women's Leadership Academy at Bill Arnold.

# Responsible Leadership

YWPN emphasizes leadership development to teach the girls responsible decision-making and accountability, community service, and global awareness.



STUDENTS SPEAK OUT AGAINST TRAFFICKED MINORS



Irma Rangel students organized and conducted the NEST Rangel Student Forum on Sexual Exploitation at the George W. Bush Institute, addressing expert panelists on this issue. After studying the issue through NEST Foundation's pilot curriculum, Rangel students felt the urgency to make the larger community aware of this issue and focus attention on what is being done to address this problem. This April at the New Friends New Life luncheon, Rangel student Sammie Casas spoke passionately to more than 1,700 attendees about the atrocities happening every night in our city and the need to act.



SENIORS WORK WITH PROFESSOR AT SPELMAN COLLEGE



STUDENT GRANT WRITING COMPETITION



6TH GRADE STUDENTS ASSIST THE AUSTIN ZOO

Three of Young Women's College Preparatory Academy seniors traveled to Spelman College to work with a renowned professor on their app and prototype, SmartBus. Inspired by a school bus accident that resulted in the death of two Houston high school students, SmartBus seeks to use the scientific method and information technology to identify possible road hazards for school bus routes. These students presented their research project to undergraduate students for constructive feedback and were also able to mentor a group of 8th grade girls during the professor's monthly Scholars session.

In celebration of their namesake's 100th anniversary of her birth, The Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders held a student grant writing competition at the school. Thirty-four teams, of three girls each, created presentations and wrote grants for their chosen charities. This culminated in the top three teams earning \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 for their chosen charities, as well as, educational scholarships for themselves.

6th grade STEM students from Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders spent the first month of the 2015-2016 school year building enrichment devices for exotic rescue animals at the Austin Zoo to help stimulate their curiosity, during feeding time. These girls worked together in groups, researching and observing the animals to collaborate on the creation of the device in the school's MakerSpace.

# Always Innovating

Network-wide programs, embracing the spirit of YWPN and the pillars upon which it was built.



**RESPECT STARTS HERE: LISTEN, LEARN, AND ACT**

Launched at Irma Rangel in fall 2015, YWPN has established a cutting-edge program, Respect Starts Here – Listen, Learn, and Act (RSH), an anti-bias program, pursuing empathy and equity through education. Amidst the daily occurrences of intolerance and hate, RSH teaches students and teachers to have meaningful conversations to discuss issues of social justice and bias in society with a focus on race, class, and gender. Our goal for RSH is to ensure that our young women are leaders in social change.

We collaborate with social justice organizations to ensure our programming is intentional and effective in this goal. This curriculum is absolutely crucial to our students' educational and emotional development, readying them to form their own opinions and respond to current events, rather than be bystanders in the conversations. The significance of this program will grow through a leadership model, entrusting that our students and faculty lead other schools over the next several years. YWPN is expanding the program each year throughout our network.



As a network of all-girls' schools, we promote sisterhood, not only amongst the YWPN schools, but with all-girls' schools everywhere, both public and private. This summer, YWPN and The Hockaday School of Dallas signified the power of sisterhood, by partnering to create a five-night, college-preparatory camp for two dozen, rising 10th grade students from YWPN network schools.

Selected by their principals, these students spent five days attending a math and writing institute, as well as, sports, leadership, or STEM electives. In the evenings, they worked on public speaking, cooking, laundry, and many other skill-building activities. This program was the perfect way to prepare students for the balance of social and academic opportunities of college life, while learning necessary life skills to enhance their whole experience. We look forward to the growth of this program for many years to come.

## BEHIND THE DESK TO THE FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM:

## YWPN GRADUATE AND TEACHER SHARES

### HER STORY

by Stephanie Aguilera '09

As a YWPN graduate and current YWPN teacher, I graduated from Irma Rangel in the first class of our network. My classmates, our teachers, and I experienced a unique set of challenges along the way, but we overcame them with persistence, passion, and teamwork.

Founding Principal Vivian Taylor and YWPN founders, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Posey, led a strong staff to achieve their vision of preparing girls for success in college. I took a risk in joining this new school, because I believed I would receive the same challenge and rigor at a public school for free.

My first encounter with my 26 classmates and teachers at Irma Rangel was at summer camp. I honestly cannot remember much, but I can remember getting to know my sisters and receiving the "First Class Leaders" summer camp t-shirt (that I still own). I, immediately, noticed the YWPN difference: Students were there to learn and challenge themselves. We were fueled on girl power and the goal of graduating from college.

The next four years proved to be difficult, but worth it. There were plenty of days when I wanted to quit and leave to have a normal high school experience. My teachers experienced those days with us, and to be honest, now that I teach at a YWLA school, I, sometimes, understand why.

When I return to Rangel as an alumnae, and see the walls overflowing with pride, new organizations, and student leadership, I am proud to have struggled in our beginning years. Plus, we were catching the attention from districts, because we were succeeding in proving that public, single-gender education is empowering.

I knew the frustration and hard work were worth it when I was accepted to the University of Notre Dame. I am a first-generation, American-born citizen and a first generation college graduate. My parents moved to the U.S. for me to get a good education and graduate from college. However, as much as they wanted me to go to college, they had no experience with the application and financial aid process. Thankfully, Mr. Posey pushed me to apply out of state, and my CollegeBound Advisor worked with us to make college a reality.



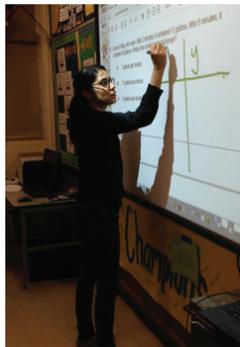
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***“I am passionate about our network because our girls deserve an excellent education and the doors that it will open for them and their families.”***

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I joined the San Antonio staff after being placed in SAISD by Teach for America (TFA). I majored in Political Science and Latino Studies and was upset with the lack of educational opportunities afforded to people like me. I was accepted to TFA and various law schools, but my end goal is to work in education reform or with an organization like YWPN that brings innovative, high-achieving schools to neighborhoods, like the one in which I grew up. I am passionate about our network, because our girls deserve an excellent education and the doors that it will open for them and their families.

I decided to accept my TFA offer over law school, and I plan to stay in education. When I found out I was being placed in a city with a YWLA campus, I emailed Principal Delia McLerran to let her know that I would be moving to San Antonio. The San Antonio school had not graduated its first class yet, and I wanted to help, so she hired me, before I could apply anywhere else.



As soon as I was hired, I reached out to my former teachers to let them know, and I visited with them for any advice or resources that they could share. They were more than willing to meet with me, because we had already formed strong teacher-student relationships at Rangel. They had served as my mentors, while I was a student, and continue

to serve as mentors as a peer teacher. In addition to teaching middle school, I've coached sports, served as the student council founder and sponsor, middle school math department chair, Class of 2020 class sponsor, and more. Together, we have accomplished a Blue Ribbon status in our first year of eligibility.

When 21 seniors crossed the stage in 2009 and became the first graduating class of Irma Rangel, we were humbled by our college acceptances and scholarships. In June 2016, YWLA San Antonio graduated its third class, and all 35 young women were accepted to four-year colleges with \$9.5 million in offers of academic and merit scholarships. I am proud to be a part of this network, both as a graduate and as a teacher.

# | MILESTONES

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

Abilene Christian University  
Agnes Scott College  
American University  
Angelo State University  
Arkansas State University  
Austin College  
Austin Community College  
Barnard College  
Baylor University  
Brookhaven College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Catholic University of America  
Chapman University  
Colgate University  
Concordia University  
Dartmouth College  
DePaul University  
Dillard University  
Duke University  
Earlham College  
Eastern New Mexico University  
Eastfield College  
El Centro College  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Friends University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Graceland University  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Houston Community College  
Howard University  
Iowa State University  
Lamar University  
Langston University  
LeTourneau University  
Lubbock Christian University  
Macalester College

McGill University  
Midwestern State University  
Mills College  
Mountain View College  
Nova Southeastern University  
Oberlin College  
Oklahoma Christian University  
Oklahoma State University  
Our Lady of the Lake University  
Pace University  
Pacific Union College  
Pitzer College  
Pomona College  
Prairie View A&M University  
Pratt Institute  
Regis University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rice University  
Saint Louis University  
Salem University  
Sam Houston State University  
San Jacinto Community College  
Savannah College of Art & Design  
Schreiner University  
Smith College  
Soka University of America  
South Plains College  
Southern Methodist University  
Southwestern University  
Spelman College  
St. Edward's University  
St. Martin University  
St. Mary's University of San Antonio  
Stanford University  
Stephen F Austin State University  
Tarleton State University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University, Galveston  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Southern University  
Texas State University  
Texas Tech University  
Texas Woman's University  
Trinity University  
Tufts University  
United States Air Force Academy  
University of Chicago  
University of Connecticut  
University of Dallas  
University of Georgia  
University of Guam  
University of Houston  
University of Mississippi  
University of New Mexico  
University of New Orleans  
University of North Texas  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Rochester  
University of Southern California  
University of St. Thomas  
University of Texas  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
University of Texas, Arlington  
University of Texas, Dallas  
University of the Incarnate Word  
Utah State University  
Washburn University  
Washington University  
Wayland Baptist University  
Wellesley College  
Yale University  
Youngstown State University

YWLA San Antonio graduate, Adriana Avendano was selected as a Gates Millennium scholar. She will attend Carnegie Mellon University to study biomedical engineering. She was an AP National Scholar with honors, received many academic awards, and served as a summer intern at the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy for three years.



Fort Worth graduated its first class this past June. Amongst the many celebrations of this milestone, the Foundation for the Young Women's Leadership Academy of Fort Worth hosted a fundraising event for their affectionately named students, GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science). The semi-formal event featured a dinner with graduating seniors seated at each table, as guests and students spoke in honor of the Class of 2016.



Young Women's Preparatory Network awarded scholarships to seven outstanding young ladies throughout the Network. These deserving seniors embody the mission and core values upon which YWPN was founded. Their capacity to lead and serve their schools and communities earned them this prestigious \$16,000 college scholarship.



**100%**  
of the 291 seniors graduated from the six graduating schools



**100%**  
of seniors accepted to college



**\$41.9m**  
in offers of academic and merit scholarships



**4,441**  
students served network-wide in the 2015-2016 school year



**68%**  
network-wide are economically disadvantaged and 68% are first-generation college students



**5x**  
the national 6-year college graduation rate for students from similar economic backgrounds



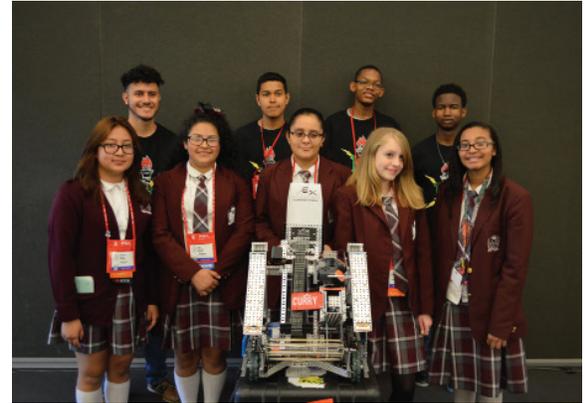
Taking a page from the National Athletic Signing Day playbook, Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School (IRS) celebrated the annual IRS Senior Signing Day with a bang this year. Through an outpouring of charitable sponsorship, Irma Rangel was able to enhance the festivities, allowing our students to celebrate with their families and classmates! There was even a special appearance from DISD Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa along with some of his fellow staff members and DISD Board of Trustee, Bernadette Nutall.

# THE PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

YWPN partners with community donors to provide additional funding to support CollegeBound initiatives to enhance the school district curriculum. The addition of this programming, focused on academic rigor, STEM programs, and the YWPN pillars of College Readiness, Responsible Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills produces dramatically higher standardized test scores, 100% graduation rates, and 100% college acceptance.

***Our model maximizes the potential of public education and leverages the public school tax dollar.***

From the moment students enter a YWPN school in the 6th grade, they are exposed to high academic expectations that continue through high school graduation. Students enrolled in our schools are proving that all girls, regardless of their background or socio-economic status, can excel, if given the right opportunity.



## Enhancements:

- A full-time CollegeBound Advisor on each campus
- Summer, after-school, and year-round programs that develop the girls' interest in STEM subjects
- College-readiness workshops
- SAT/ACT test preparation on campus
- PSAT preparation
- AP Teacher Training
- College visits
- YWPN Scholars- Seven \$16,000 scholarships to the top candidates Network-wide
- Teacher training and enhancement opportunities
- Sports and fitness
- Anti-bias programming
- Healthy living and nutrition seminars and workshops

YWPN is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported entirely by the donations of generous community members, corporations, and foundations.

Make a gift today!

Make a gift online: [www.youngwomensprep.org](http://www.youngwomensprep.org)

Make a gift by phone: 214.824.1400

Make a gift via email: [info@ywprep.org](mailto:info@ywprep.org)

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The benefits of receiving a single-gender education at an all-girls school are undeniable. Our students are continuously proving that all girls can succeed, regardless of their background. We urge you to make a difference and join this group of generous supporters.

# THANK YOU DONORS

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



I am excited to serve as Chairwoman of the Young Women's Preparatory Network Board of Directors. As a founding board member, seeing us grow from our first school in Dallas at Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in 2004 to now eight schools around the state, is indeed some of my proudest work. I have been a mainstay on the board since its inception, initially serving in the capacity of Treasurer.

When I am asked about my involvement, I mention my belief that education is arguably the great equalizer. If not the great equalizer, it is most certainly a cornerstone of success. To that end, our model of public/private partnership works well to change the trajectory of the lives of the girls we serve. Our partnership with public school districts to create and support single-gender, college preparatory, public schools for young women is making a difference.

Our private partnership support is key, as it provides funds to enhance the students' academic success and college readiness. In addition, we are helping equip girls with critical leadership skills and ways to lead healthy lives for a lifetime.

My daughter recently graduated from an all-girls, college preparatory school. I witnessed how that environment encouraged her growth and development, not just academically, but as a leader and a confident, articulate young woman. We have the pleasure of watching our girls similarly blossom at our sister schools.

I am honored to serve on a board amongst so many remarkable people. I would like to thank Kelly Tacke for her tremendous contribution, as chairwoman last year, and also thank Gloria Campos, who will sadly be leaving us this year, as her term ends. What an incredible contribution she has been to our team, as she fulfilled her role as secretary. It is a joy to serve with such accomplished individuals, while being a part of something so significant.

When you educate a girl, you not only stand to improve her life, but in the process you improve the potential for her family and strengthen communities. An investment in the education of our students helps empower them to break the cycle of poverty within their families, as a majority come from economically disadvantaged homes. This investment ripples through our community and pays dividends for years to come. Please join me in supporting our sisterhood of young women.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Henry Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Evelyn Henry Miller  
Board Chairwoman

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Evelyn Henry Miller  
*Chairwoman*

Matt Adams  
Christine Breck  
Lisa Cooley  
Laura Estrada  
Marion Flores  
Margaret Keliher  
Barbara D'Auria Lerner  
Stef Mauler  
Camie Shelmire  
Michele Snyder  
Kelly Tacke  
Michele Vobach

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

Gina Betts  
Todd Williams

Are you passionate about helping young women succeed in school and in life? If so, we invite you to join the Luminaries, a visionary group formed to support the education of young women. Events throughout the year provide opportunities to collaborate with members from across the state. Your partnership and support will ensure that these young women have quality education for success in life.

Join the Luminaries when you make a gift today!

#### Luminaries Leadership

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Honorary Chair  
Sarah Losinger, Co-Founding Chair  
Lynn McBee, Co-Founding Chair

#### Founding Members

Marilyn Augur  
Emy Lou Baldrige  
Stephanie Bray  
Faye Briggs  
Mary Clare Finney  
Marion Flores  
Mary Jalonick  
Joyce Lacerte  
Sarah Losinger  
Lynn McBee  
Nancy Rogers  
Beth Thoele  
Michele Vobach



Joyce and Larry Lacerte hosted a Luminaries Dinner at their Dallas home with special guest, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. She spoke adamantly about the power of all-girls' education and the struggle, as she led the charge to legalize single-sex education in the public sector.

### THANK YOU!

From all of us at YWPN, we thank you for your dedication, support, and heartfelt words that make our work possible. We are so grateful to have a strong network of passionate people, who believe in the power of education, and that girls, regardless of background or socioeconomic status, can excel if given the right opportunity.

Lynn McBee, Chief Executive Officer  
Patty Leyendecker, Chief Development Officer  
Claire Manigold, Chief Financial Officer  
Juliette Coulter, Chief Marketing Officer  
Karla Loya Stack, Chief Program Officer  
Cindy Ryan, Director of Development  
Vivian Taylor, Director of School Operations  
Quincy Lacerte, Director of Special Projects



Staff members in front of a Natasha Bowdoin work of art, while attending the RSH event at Talley Dunn Gallery.

# SUPPORT THE YWPN MISSION



**Young Women's Preparatory Network**  
*educating future leaders*



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Connect with us



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The contents of this magazine was  
the combined effort of many  
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