



YWCPA

YOUNG WOMEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

3rd Annual Trailblazer

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Celebrating 12 years of preparing young women to be the leaders of tomorrow!

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Wednesday, May 29, 2024

InterContinental Hotel | 6750 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77030





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THE TRAILBLAZER LUNCHEON

The YWCPA Trailblazer Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at the InterContinental Hotel Medical Center is a fundraising event that celebrates the promising futures of the graduating class of Young Women's College Preparatory Academy (YWCPA) and honors the outstanding achievement of women in the Greater Houston area. The YWCPA Trailblazer Award has been named in honor of Dr. Polly Sparks Turner, Chair Emeritus of the YWCPA Advisory Council.

This year, we will present the 2024 Dr. Polly Sparks Turner Trailblazer Award to Mrs. Argentina James. Having over three decades of service as a community leader, brand strategist, and public relations expert, Ms. James most recently served as the Chair of the YWCPA Advisory Council where, in just two years, she helped raise over \$250,000 in programmatic support. She has set the bar for meaningful engagement, productive leadership, and philanthropy for the YWCPA students, staff, and families. We will also present the 2024 "Because of Her" Chairperson's Award to Bethany Clarkson-Morgan. Mrs. Clarkson-Morgan has been an ardent supporter for YWCPA since its inception in 2011. From mentoring to coaching STEM competition teams, she has been a constant champion for YWCPA scholars and the work that we do with them.

Event proceeds support the work of the Young Women's Preparatory Network at Young Women's College Preparatory Academy in the Greater Houston area. Young Women's Preparatory Network is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that ensures female students gain the confidence and skills to apply, attend and graduate from college.



Dr. Polly Sparks Turner

August 29, 1938 - March 30, 2023

ABOUT DR. POLLY SPARKS TURNER

A native Houstonian, Dr. Polly Sparks Turner attended Phillis Wheatley High School. She earned the Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and both the Master's and doctorate degrees from The University of Texas School of Public Health.

Dr. Turner began her trailblazing career having served as the first African American Director of Pharmacy Services (in a majority hospital) at Beaumont City Hospital, Twelve Oaks Hospital and Doctors Hospital in Houston, Texas. She also served as the first Bureau Chief of Health Center Administration and the Office of Evaluation Services, City of Houston Health and Human Services Department. Dr. Turner was the first preceptor for Texas Southern University students.

Throughout her life, Dr. Turner led and inspired others through her service on UTHealth Development Board of Directors, as Chairman Emeritus at the School of Health Professions, The University of Texas Medical Branch, as an active member of the American Public Health Association, American Colleges of Healthcare Executives, Texas Allied Health Association, American Public Health Association, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Dr. Turner's legacy of leadership and service lives on and shines brightly through each and every scholar at the Young Women's College Preparatory Academy.



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OUR HONOREES

DR. POLLY SPARKS TURNER TRAILBLAZER AWARD



Argentina M. James

Argentina M. James is the President, CEO, and founder of HillDay, an award-winning public relations and supplier diversity firm. With over 35 years of industry experience, she specializes in developing and implementing strategies that drive results in communications, public involvement campaigns, corporate and brand identity programs, and stakeholder engagement. Her savvy approach to business development, government relations, corporate communications, and reputation management has consistently yielded favorable outcomes for her clients.

Argentina is a firm believer in the motto "Lift as you climb," dedicating an extraordinary amount of time to various organizations and excelling as a fundraiser. She co-chaired the NAACP Centennial Freedom Fund Awards Dinner, which became the most successful NAACP Houston Branch event ever, raising over \$1 million in two years. She also initiated the Tiger Ball, an annual fundraiser for Texas Southern University that has raised \$1.5 million over two years. As Chair Emeritus, Board Chair, President, and Gala Chair of The Ensemble Theatre, she has raised over \$20 million in 20 years. Argentina has been recognized as a Philanthropist of the Year Honoree by the YWCA Greater Houston and has raised \$30,000 for their annual luncheon. She has also raised over \$3 million for the Missouri City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and \$250,000 for the Prayer Institute Annual Luncheon Fundraising Committee. In addition, she raised \$50,000 in cash and in-kind services for the Greater Channel Jack & Jill of America—Teen Conference Committee Fundraiser and helped raise an additional \$50,000 for teen activities.

"BECAUSE OF HER" CHAIRPERON'S AWARD



Beverly Clarkson Morgan

Bethany Clarkson-Morgan has been a part of the BP family for 24 years, currently serving as the Assurance Programme Lead Americas, Europe, and North Africa in the S+ORA organization. With a BS in Chemical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis, she has primarily focused on process engineering and operations management during her career at BP. Bethany's past roles include providing engineer support and leadership in BP Chemicals, Refining, and Production businesses. Before joining BP, she worked as a cryogenic applications engineer for Messer MG Industries for 5 years.

Bethany is a Lifetime Member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and serves as BP's Board of Corporate Affiliates representative to the NSBE. In her spare time, she is active in her Alma Mater, serving as a mentor in their Wash U CNX program, supporting interviews for local students via the school's APAP program, and participating in the McKelvey School of Engineering DEI task force. She also serves on the Houston area Eliot Society team and is a board member for Pearland Speed Track Club (TX), St. Mary of the Purification School Advisory Council (TX), and Sponsor 4 Success (KY). Bethany volunteers with various nonprofits, including HLSR—Black Heritage Committee and Agriculture Education Committees, focused on providing opportunities and pathways to success for young people and communities.



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ABOUT US

YOUNG WOMEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

As a member of the Young Women's Preparatory Network (YWPN), YWCPA is an all-girls, 6th-12th grade school that ensures its young women have the access, opportunity, preparation, and confidence that they need to matriculate a four-year degree program.

Founded in 2011, YWCPA is located in the historic Third Ward community of Houston, Texas, and serves girls from all over the Greater Houston area. Over 60 percent of YWCPA students qualify for free and/or reduced lunch; and for them, the key to breaking the cycle of poverty is through education. Focusing on empowering girls and young women through educational opportunities, YWCPA offers a quality academic curriculum concentrating on rigor, STEM engagement, and college readiness.

Since the first YWCPA students graduated from high school in 2015, 100% of graduates have been accepted to a four-year college or university. Many will be the first in their families to attend and graduate from college. Collectively, YWCPA alumnae have been awarded over \$36 million in academic and merit-based scholarships for college. In 2020, the United States Department of Education named YWCPA a Blue Ribbon School, and US News and World Report ranked it in the top 100 high school programs in the state of Texas.



YOUNG WOMEN'S PREPARATORY NETWORK

Founded in 2002, the YWPN is a nonprofit agency that partners with public school districts across the state of Texas to operate the largest network of all girls, public, college preparatory schools in the nation. Its schools are located in struggling urban neighborhoods and have proven to be very successful. The schools have won multiple academic achievement awards, including being recognized among the top public schools in Texas and the nation. The YWPN is a member of the Young Women's Leadership Network and the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS).

YWPN formed the first public/private partnership with the Dallas Independent School District in August 2004, opening the Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, the first all girls public school in Texas. Since then, YWPN has opened schools in Aldine, Austin, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Houston, Lubbock, Midland, San Antonio, and El Paso serving more than 4,600 young women annually.

JOIN US FOR THE YWCPA TRAILBLAZER LUNCHEON TO:

- Celebrate our seniors as they prepare to graduate for college
- Recognize the Dr. Polly Sparks Turner Trailblazer Award recipient
- Fund programs for YWCPA students to gain the confidence and skills to apply, attend and graduate from college



YWCPA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023-2025

JOANNE HOWARD

Former Senior Vice President of ESG and Corporate
Communications - Crestwood Equity Partners LP
Advisory Council Chair

MARIA REEVE

Managing Editor/Vice
President of the Star Tribune
Advisory Council Vice Chair

DAVID FALCONER, JD, AIF®

Senior Vice President, Manager-Funeral and
Cemetery Trust Services – Regions Bank
Advisory Council Secretary

Voting Members

DR. CHRISTOPHER BLAND

Central Region Executive Director, Houston ISD

ALANA KING BENFORD

King Benford Law Firm, PLLC

DR. BRENDA BUSTILLOS, PHD, PE

TxDOT ConnectSmart Deputy Program Manager

JENNIFER LONG

Director of Outreach and Engagement, YWPN

LILIANA CRUZ

Lead, Corporate Citizenship - Deloitte

DR. NICOLE MCZEAL-WALTERS

Dean of the Kolbe School of Innovation and Professional Studies,
University of St. Thomas

DR. PAMELA DAFFIN CORMIER

Professor, PVAMU College of Nursing

MELANIE MILES

The Law Office of Melanie Miles, PC

LIDYA DEAN

Director, Valuation Advisory – Stout

ROMAN RIOS

Hensel Phelps

BELINDA EVERETT

Director, Community Outreach - Consumer Mortgage Lending,
Prosperity Bank

CINDY RYAN

Chief Development Officer, Young Women's Preparatory Network

STEVE GRANSON

HNTB/COMTO Houston Chapter President

DR. SHAWN SIMMONS

Environmental & Regulatory Manager, ExxonMobil

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Chief Executive Officer, SYSTRA USA

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Managing Partner & President Etched-Ten35

MELINDA SPAULDING CHEVALIER

Vice President for Public Affairs, Rice University

ARGENTINA JAMES

President and CEO of HillDay Companies

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

Chief Innovation Officer, METRO

Non-Voting Members

TIPHANY BURRELL

Development Manager – Houston, YWPN

DR. TABITHA DAVIS

Principal, YWCPA



PRESENTING SPONSOR
\$10,000

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- One (1) Premier Table of *Ten (10), Hosting Two (2) YWCPA Seniors
- Seated with Trailblazer award honoree and YWCPA Advisory Council Chair
- Opportunity to present the award to the Dr. Polly Sparks Turner Trailblazer Award honoree
- Verbal recognition from stage
- Sponsor name or logo in the event program, signage, step and repeat, and video loop
- Sponsor name or logo on table signage
- Recognition in pre- and post-event email and social media promotion
- Linked company logo placement on YWCPA website and social media platforms
- Placement of promotional item in senior gift bags and faculty welcome-back bags

*A table of ten includes hosting two students. The sponsor will only need to invite eight guests.



VALEDICTORIAN SPONSOR
\$7,500

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- One (1) Premier Table of *Ten (10), Hosting Two (2) YWCPA Seniors
- Seated with Because of Her award honoree and YWCPA Class of 2024 Valedictorian
- Verbal recognition from stage
- Sponsor name or logo in the event program, signage, step and repeat, and video loop
- Sponsor name or logo on table signage
- Recognition in pre- and post-event email and social media promotion
- Linked company logo placement on YWCPA website and social media platforms
- Placement of promotional item in senior gift bags and faculty welcome-back bags

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SALUTATORIAN SPONSOR \$5,000

HONOR ROLL SPONSOR \$3,500

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- One (1) Premier Table of *Ten (10), Hosting Two (2) YWCPA Seniors
- Seated with YWCPA Class of 2024 Salutatorian and YWCPA Principal
- Verbal recognition from stage
- Sponsor name in the event program, signage, step and repeat, and video loop
- Sponsor name on table signage
- Recognition in pre- and post-event email and social media promotion
- Linked company logo placement on YWCPA website and social media platforms
- Placement of promotional item in senior gift bags and faculty welcome-back bags

*A table of ten includes hosting two students. The sponsor will only need to invite eight guests.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- One (1) Premier Table of *Ten (10), Hosting Two (2) YWCPA Seniors
- Verbal recognition from stage
- Sponsor name in the event program, signage, step and repeat, and video loop
- Sponsor name on table signage
- Recognition in pre- and post-event email and social media promotion

*A table of ten includes hosting two students. The sponsor will only need to invite eight guests.

SUPPORTER \$750

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- Seating for two (2) guests
- Recognition in post-event email and social media promotion
- Recognition on the school's website



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SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

(All correspondence sent to name below unless otherwise specified.)

Name of Company, Foundation or Individual _____

Name of Company as it should be listed on promotional materials _____

Name of Contact Person _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ \$10,000 Presenting Sponsor

_____ \$7,500 Valedictorian Sponsor

_____ \$5,000 Salutatorian Sponsor

_____ \$3,500 Honor Roll

_____ \$750 Supporter

_____ I can't participate but would like to donate \$ _____ (100% is tax deductible)

Total amount: _____ **Payment included** _____ **Invoice me**

Make checks payable to Young Women's Preparatory Network (please designate YWCPA)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Individual or Department to be billed: _____ Phone: _____

Billing address: _____

Email address: _____ Type of card: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Credit Number: _____ Security code: _____

Cardholder's name: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature of sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for helping educate and inspire our next generation of leaders!

Click Here:
To donate online using
Visa, MasterCard, and Discover
www.youngwomensprep.org/houston