TRANSFORMING PUBLIC EDUCATION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
"I was very excited when I opened my acceptance letter. I started laughing then instantly broke into tears. My parents also could not believe that I had been accepted. They thought only children whose parents had a college education had these types of opportunities. They were beyond proud that coming from parents who only studied up to 6th grade, I was accepted to Harvard."

Cinthya Meza, YWPN Class of 2018, is a first-generation high school graduate and college attendee. She is currently attending Harvard University.

From our CEO

As I reflect upon the past year, I am reminded of the words of a former YWPN parent regarding his dreams for his daughter, "Es importante que obtengas una buena educación. Una educación te dará libertad en el futuro - It's important that you get a good education. An education will give you freedom in the future." Though a large majority of our girls’ parents do not have an education of their own, they are profoundly aware of its importance to their daughters’ futures.

The “No Child Left Behind Act” of 2001 addressed the enormous inequalities in education between low-income and affluent students. Almost 18 years later, the education achievement gap still exists. A student who graduates from a high-poverty high school has only a 19% chance of earning a college degree within six years, compared to 54% for a student from a low-poverty high school. The education gap begins long before students enter college. Addressing the quality of education low-income students receive at the middle and high school level is key to increasing their ability to persist in and graduate from college.

Low-income students deserve the same access to a quality education as their more affluent peers. They deserve the opportunity to attend a school where all girls, regardless of their background or socio-economic status, can excel. Through YWPN’s work with our school district partners, we are TRANSFORMING PUBLIC EDUCATION for over 4,400 girls enrolled in our Network of schools during the 2017-2018 school year. I, along with the YWPN Board of Directors and staff, are enormously humbled to have a part in helping our students find success through education.

This year, we celebrated the Class of 2018 with SEVEN graduation ceremonies statewide. There was pride and confidence shining through each girl who walked across the stage, the perfect embodiment of a YWPN student. The challenges they have overcome make their journey to high school graduation and college acceptance incredibly inspiring. Looking into the audience, full of family members, peers, teachers, mentors, and friends, it was clear our girls are trailblazers in their communities and will be our leaders of the future. I am so proud of our girls for all they have already accomplished and the endless potential ahead of them!

This fall, Cinthya, a 2018 graduate from the Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School, will attend Harvard University. She is one of only 1,962 students out of almost 43,000 applicants to secure a spot in the Class of 2022. Harvard has met 100% of Cinthya’s demonstrated financial need, making it possible for her to attend college debt-free. As the child of parents with only a 6th grade education, this is a transformative opportunity for Cinthya and her family. Through education, her family’s trajectory will be changed forever.

Success stories such as Cinthya’s would not be possible without the dedication of our school administrators and educators, as well as the support of our donors. Year after year, our students continue to achieve excellence in all of their endeavors, demonstrating the positive results of investing in public education.

I am grateful for the generosity of our many donors and the partnerships we have established to support our Network of schools. With 10 years of graduating classes, we are beginning to witness the long-term effects of the work that we do. Our alumnae are graduating from college at almost THREE times the national average of 19% for students from high-poverty high schools. While we are proud of this accomplishment, there is still more work to do. We are excited to expand into the realm of supporting our alumnae throughout their college career, so that we can ensure even more of our alumnae persist in and graduate from college.

I hope you enjoy reading our 2018 Annual Report. We are excited to highlight a special group of students from the YWPN Class of 2014; they are an impressive group of young ladies.

Best Regards,

Lynn McBee
Chief Executive Officer
TRANSFORMING PUBLIC EDUCATION

Young Women’s Preparatory Network partners with PUBLIC school districts to create and support all-girls, college-preparatory, public schools. It is critically important to work within the public school system, where the need is greatest, to serve low-income girls. Through our school district partnerships, we create innovative all-girls schools where each young woman receives:

- Rigorous academic coursework and extended-learning opportunities in preparation for college level academics.
- Thorough college admissions advisement necessary to access her best fit college.
- Confidence-building experiences that encourage her to pursue the college major and career path of her choice.

We are the ONLY organization working hand-in-hand with the public school district to affect change within public education across Texas.

We have a network of eight schools in Austin, Dallas, El Paso (Ysleta ISD), Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Houston, Lubbock, and San Antonio. Our students are eager to use education as a path to breaking the generational cycles of poverty within their families. The majority of the girls enrolled in our schools are students of color and reside in low-income households.

School Locations in Our Network

YWPN schools are consistently ranked as among the best public schools in Texas and the Nation. According to the latest listing of the Best High Schools in the Nation by U.S. News and World Report, all six of our eligible schools are among the top 100 schools in Texas!

19th: Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, Austin
23rd: Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School, Dallas
25th: Young Women’s Leadership Academy, San Antonio
75th: Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders, Lubbock
85th: Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, Houston
100th: Young Women’s Leadership Academy, Fort Worth

For YWPN students, the key to breaking the cycle of poverty is through education. However, despite their best intentions and dreams for the future, the path “to and through college” is not easy for low-income students. Poverty, single-parent households, transience, and racial barriers can derail their collegiate aspirations. Only 52% of students from high-poverty high schools enroll in college the semester after high school graduation.

Enrollment in a YWPN school sets the girls on the path to a brighter future through education. The college-prep environment on our campuses creates an atmosphere of high academic expectations, achievement, and accountability that is a rarity in the public school setting.

SINCE OUR FIRST SENIOR CLASS

100% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE
94% COLLEGE MATRICULATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
THE 358 GRADUATES FROM THE CLASS OF 2018 RECEIVED OFFERS OF

OVER $53 MILLION IN ACADEMIC AND MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Latest publicly released data from the Texas Education Agency.
**YWPN PILLAR: COLLEGE READINESS**

**COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAMMING IS KEY TO SUCCESS**

YWPN creates and funds College Readiness programs to ENHANCE the school district curriculum on our school campuses. Through initiatives based on our founding pillars of College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills, we lengthen the school day, stretch the school year, and layer on educational enhancements to ensure our girls graduate from high school prepared for success in college.

Mercedez is a 2018 graduate from the Young Women’s Leadership Academy in Fort Worth. She received a full scholarship to Texas Christian University and is the first in her family to attend college.

“If I had stayed at my neighborhood school, I’d be planning a wedding or a baby shower, like my two best friends. Instead, I’m planning on where I’m going to college.”

Erika, YWPN Class of 2013
Austin College graduate 2016
First-generation college graduate

College was always pushed to the back of my mind. It wasn’t until I enrolled in the Young Women’s Leadership Academy as a sixth grader that the idea of me going to college was ever considered a possibility.”

**THE ROAD TO COLLEGE**

The YWPN College Advising program shows the girls and their families that a college education can be a reality rather than an impossible dream. The program consists of a full-time, campus-based College Advisor, College Readiness workshops for students and parents, on-campus SAT/ACT test preparation, and one-on-one guidance through the college application and financial aid processes.

Ann Marano, College Advisor, works with the girls and their parents.

“Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner, spoke at Senior Signing Day at the Irma Rangel School (Dallas) and shared her inspirational path to success as a Mexican immigrant.”

**CAMPUS SUPPORT**

The College Bound Office on our school campuses provides our girls with the resources needed to further their education. With the dozens of college pendants that adorn the room inspiring big dreams, the College Bound Office is where dreamers become achievers.

Students take advantage of the resources available through the Young Women’s Leadership Academy (Fort Worth) College Bound Office.

**EXPLORING COLLEGE OPTIONS**

Our girls are provided with many opportunities to visit college campuses in Texas and across the United States. Exposure to a wide variety of different colleges and universities helps each student determine the best fit college for her personality and individual needs. In the Fall of 2018, 101 different colleges and universities welcomed the 358 graduates from the YWPN statewide Class of 2018.

“Being a first-generation college student has come with many obstacles. Attending a YWPN school has prepared me to overcome the barriers I have encountered. Thank you for believing in a young girl who had all the odds against her from the start.”

Yerania, YWPN alumna, 2018 graduate from Texas A&M University

**CELEBRATING COLLEGE CHOICES**

Taking a page from the National Athletic Signing Day playbook, we celebrate the college choices of each graduating class of seniors. At Senior Signing Day, the girls enthusiastically reveal where they will attend college in front of the entire student body, friends, families, and community supporters.
YWPN PILLAR: LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPING STRONG LEADERS

Through Leadership Development programs and opportunities, our girls are transformed into strong women who can help themselves and those around them. They become leaders who are agents of change in their families and communities.

STUDENTS INSPIRED BY MICHELLE OBAMA

YWPN provided 80 students from across our Network with the opportunity to see former First Lady Michelle Obama speak in Dallas. Several of our schools held essay contests to select the students to attend the event. One school’s topic for the essay contest was “Michelle Obama’s Impact on Society.” All of the girls were excited to hear from their idol in person with one student exclaiming, “It’s like my birthday and Christmas all rolled into one.” With Mrs. Obama’s speech dedicated to inspiring young women and future leaders, this was a great opportunity to inspire leadership in our girls.

STUDENTS SERVE AS SCHOOL AMBASSADORS

Founded by a former student at the Young Women’s Leadership Academy (San Antonio), the Cardinal Senate organization promotes service and leadership through volunteerism. Cardinal Senate is a highly selective organization with final membership determined by the school principal. Throughout the year, the girls participate in community service projects and represent the school at various functions and events.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Incoming 9th grade students at the Young Women’s Leadership Academy (Ysleta) participated in a summer leadership program designed to build leadership skills, self-confidence, and prepare them for the academic and social rigors of high school. The program builds momentum for a great school year and sets the standards and expectations of the high school environment.

“I am a leader now and will be a leader for the rest of my life.”

Jacqueline, YWPN Class of 2011, SMU Class of 2015

YWPN PILLAR: WELLNESS LIFE SKILLS

HEALTHY MINDS AND BODIES

Well-established life skills in the areas of leadership, fitness, and nutrition are the building blocks to ensure our girls have the ability to successfully navigate everyday life, and are crucial to a well-rounded education. The development of these skills ensures our students are prepared to make good decisions and solve problems throughout their academic and professional careers, as well as their personal lives.

CHANGE HAPPENS THROUGH EDUCATION

One of our most important programs aimed at developing Wellness Life Skills in our girls is the “YWPN Respect Starts Here – Listen, Learn, and Act program (RSH). RSH is an innovative program that addresses social justice and educates students and campus staff on the implications of bias in our society with a focus on race, class, and gender. Recognizing that the way to bring about social change is through education, RSH emphasizes empathy for those from all different backgrounds and actively promotes a culture where change happens through student-led actions taken at school, at home, and in the community. Through RSH, our girls are empowered to act as agents of social change by carrying forth RSH messages throughout our community so that tough conversations will continue, and

CHANGE WILL HAPPEN.

SUMMER WELLNESS

Through our partnership with Texas Woman’s University, each summer our girls participate in the Fit to Lead program. Specifically developed for YWPN students, the program focuses on the YWPN pillars of College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills.
FOCUS AREA
EMBRACING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM)

YWPN creates STEM programs and opportunities that engage our girls and show them that STEM subjects are not to be feared, but embraced, as a field of study in college and a possible future career.

GIRLS INNOVATE: YWPN STEM CHALLENGE

On November 4, 2017, 88 girls, representing 22 middle and high school student teams from our North Texas schools, converged on NorthPark Center in Dallas for the inaugural Girls Innovate: YWPN STEM Challenge. The event, which is a unique take on a high-end science fair, provided an opportunity for the girls to use their creativity and problem-solving skills to improve real-world situations they believed could be enhanced with STEM applications. The students worked throughout the fall on their projects. The Challenge culminated at NorthPark Center with a public demonstration and a project showcase.

Students showcase their projects at the STEM Challenge.

ANN RICHARDS SCHOOL TAKES LEARNING OUTDOORS

School gardens are living laboratories that bring STEM lessons outdoors! Gardening is a comprehensive, hands-on learning opportunity that allows our students to experience real-world STEM applications and reinforces concepts learned in the classroom.

Students learn about STEM through the Ann Richards School (Austin) garden.

GIRL POWER

Our girls are often the only all-girls Robotics teams participating in competitions across the state. Through their hard work, intelligence, and dedication, our students show that women are capable of competing and excelling in the male-dominated STEM fields.

Our girls preparing their robots for competition.

FOCUS AREA
HELPING OUR GIRLS THROUGH COLLEGE

Getting low-income, first-generation students into college is hard. Ensuring they graduate from college is even harder.

During the past year, we expanded support of our alumnae through the creation of the YWPN Alumnae Services program. Jeremy Cortez has been brought on to lead this initiative. In this role, Jeremy works to ensure our girls matriculate, persist in, and graduate from college. Jeremy has first-hand knowledge of the difficulties our girls face pursuing higher education. Growing up in a low-income household with an absentee father, Jeremy was raised by his grandmother while his mother worked two jobs to support the family. Though she did not have an education of her own, it was important to her that Jeremy forge a different path for himself. He graduated from high school and received multiple scholarships that enabled him to attend college. As a first-generation, minority student, he faced many struggles throughout college and often considered dropping out of college. Ultimately, through perseverance and tenacity, he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas Tech University, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Baylor University.

Jeremy’s personal history and previous position as the College Advisor at the Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders (Lubbock) enables him to understand the issues and unique challenges our girls face as first-generation students coping with the rigors of college. This shared perspective allows for a mutual relationship of trust and support to ensure our girls persist in and graduate from college.

Nationwide, 19% of graduates from a high-poverty high school will receive an associate’s degree or higher within six years.

YWPN Outcomes: 54% of the YWPN Classes of 2009-2011 have received a college degree within six years.

69% of the YWPN Class of 2011 has received a college degree within six years.
ALUMNAE UPDATES

After graduating from Southern Methodist University, where she majored in Civil Engineering, Reyna (YWPN Class of 2010) began working at AZB Engineers. For the past three years, AZB has hosted interns for the YWPN Summer Internship program. Reyna was instrumental in their decision to participate in the program and provide this crucial opportunity for students interested in careers in Engineering.

Lorena (YWPN Class of 2017) is a second year Political Science student at Northeastern University in Boston. She spent her summer interning with MOVE Texas and visited college campuses, neighborhoods, and community events in the San Antonio area to register people to vote. She also received a scholarship to attend the 2018 Young Women Run Conference in Washington, D.C. in June, 2018.

Phoebe (YWPN Class of 2016) is a junior at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Sports Management. She is involved in many community service organizations, not only through ENMU but in her hometown, as well. She says, “I am thankful to the Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders for pushing me to my limits when it comes to success. I had so many amazing teachers and mentors pushing me into avenues where I could be successful.”

Lorena (YWPN Class of 2017) is a second year Political Science student at Northeastern University in Boston. She spent her summer interning with MOVE Texas and visited college campuses, neighborhoods, and community events in the San Antonio area to register people to vote. She also received a scholarship to attend the 2018 Young Women Run Conference in Washington, D.C. in June, 2018.

Tyrian (YWPN Class of 2013) earned her Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Global Studies from Earlham College. During her time at Earlham, she was a McNair Scholar, Bonner Scholar, Admissions Intern, Community Engagement Intern, and Bonner Senior Intern. She also helped create programs surrounding academic and personal development for students, campus-wide community engagement, and making community service and engagement more accessible to all students. Tyrian is the Community Engagement Director for McDonald’s and is enrolled in graduate school at Indiana University pursuing a degree in Public Affairs.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Young Women’s Preparatory Network Scholarship is a $16,000 achievement-based scholarship awarded to young women from our Network who embody the mission and core values upon which our organization was founded. These young women are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities. This year, nine outstanding graduates were chosen to receive the scholarship.

In 2007, 75 sixth grade girls walked through the doors of the Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School in Dallas. They didn’t know it at the time, but seven of these girls would become fast friends, bound by a common goal: a brighter future through education. After seven years of growing and learning together, childhood friends Chantal Castillo, Gina Bolaños, Africa Hernandez, Jazmin Tule, Karen Mendoza, Emma Chalott Barron, and Karla Guadalupe Garcia graduated from high school, a milestone that several were the first in their families to reach.

After high school graduation, each set off on their own paths as first-generation college students in pursuit of their dreams. Despite the miles between them, college was a journey they took together. Social media allowed them to stay in touch and support one another on a daily basis. Maintaining daily communication with each other helped them survive homesickness, challenges in their coursework, and personal losses. Jazmin says, “Having a sisterhood that pushed you to keep doing your best just a phone call away was helpful. They have been such a good support system all the way.”

After four years of hard work, personal challenges, and deep-seated friendship, they came together to celebrate their latest accomplishment: college graduation! It’s not simply their college degrees that make these young women impressive— in fact, most of their fellow classmates from the Irma Rangel School have earned theirs, as well. What makes these seven impressive is the eternal bond that they share as first-generation college students, their support of each other, and their strong commitment to the passions that move them forward. Karla says, “We are all first-generation college attendees and graduates, daughters of Mexican immigrants, and we are navigating a world every single day that is completely new, and exciting, and terrifying all at once. We are able to do what we do because we have each other.”
When Gina received a job offer in Caterpillar’s rotational program in Illinois, it was her Rangel sisters who pushed her to take the plunge. After graduation, Chantal decided to join the Peace Corps in Panama; her Rangel sisters’ support boosted her confidence in the choice. Having each other meant never having to feel alone in the face of exciting prospects or rejection.

Attending Irma Rangel planted the seeds of sisterhood, passion, and drive that none of them observed in their college peers. Emma says, “Going to an all-girls school taught me the power of female friendships and the power of really supporting one another.” They all agree that Rangel provided the encouragement they needed to be themselves, and what’s more, the best versions of themselves.

At a photo shoot commemorating their shared journey, college graduation, and enduring bond, Africa reflected on its importance to the girls. “We wanted to show that four years later, after going to schools in different states, we still know this is where we come from, this is home, and we haven’t lost sight of that.”

The bonds of sisterhood that brought them together, kept them together, and pushed them to achieve what they set out to do, now compel them to reach out and lift up the next generation of young women. While looking to the future, these seven young women never forget their pasts and see the value in being the role models to the future, these seven young women never forget.

Karla graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a degree in Public Policy. Karla is now working in Dallas at the Commit Partnership. “I’m ready to help and support young students like me. It’s almost like I can see myself, that sixth grader that I was in the students of today and I can say, ‘Look, I am that Latina girl that looks like you, that made it.’”

Chantal graduated from Saint Louis University with a degree in Leadership and Human Resource Management. She is currently volunteering through the Peace Corps for Sustainable Agricultural Systems in Panama. She is working with farmers to improve their household food security and resilience. “Much of what has gotten me to where I am today, such as Lee Posey’s vision, gives me faith in believing that we can bring the best out of people if we learn how to nurture goodwill.”

Gina graduated from Texas Woman’s University with a degree in Criminal Justice. This past summer, she received an internship with Vistra Energy working in their Information Technology Department. Africa plans to attend law school to study family or criminal law. “Rangel was very different from what our friends at their neighborhood schools were experiencing; being able to go through these different challenges together really molded us into having a unique perspective.”

Jazmin graduated from Skidmore College with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. She currently works at Skidmore in their Development Office fundraising for major scholarships. She plans to put her entrepreneurial skills to use by starting a woman’s clothing website before applying to graduate school.

Emma graduated from Austin College with a degree in Political Science and Nonprofit Organizations and Public Service. Emma plans to apply to law school and focus on immigration, labor, or employment law. “When I got to college, realizing that not everyone had the same loving friendships and the supportive networks that we had at Rangel was an eye-opener for me.”

Karen graduated from Texas Woman’s University with a degree in Social Work. She is pursuing a master’s degree at Texas A&M Commerce in Mesquite. “Something that really created the spark in me to go into social work was the community service that I did throughout high school. It gave me the sense of ‘I like helping people, I like giving them resources, what kind of job can I get that will allow me to do that?’”

Emma graduated from Ann Richards School (Austin) showcase their Robotics project.

If the young women that we have helped reach out and help others, then that means it has worked.

- Lee Posey

Students from the Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy (Houston) prepare for a performance.

Attending a YWPN school means OPPORTUNITY! Every leadership position is occupied by a girl; the entire Robotics team is made of girls, every spot in the drumline and every member of the Math team is a girl. Our girls are given opportunities to build leadership skills that set them up for a lifetime of success.

The Marching Stars of the Ann Richards School (Austin) prepare for a performance.
**FOCUS AREA**

ENSURING CAMPUS EXCELLENCE

Well-trained and prepared campus Administrators and Educators are crucial to our efforts to ensure our girls’ success. Through on-going professional development, mentoring, and continuing education opportunities, our campus staff are exceptionally prepared and equipped to nurture and educate our girls.

We have expanded our support of our Network schools by hiring Berta Fogerson as our Chief Academic and Accountability Officer. Berta was most recently, until her retirement, the Principal of YWPN’s school in Lubbock, the Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders. During her time at the school, Berta received the prestigious Terrel H. Bell award for Outstanding School Leadership. In addition, the school was consistently recognized as among the best in Texas and the Nation and honored as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2016. In her role with YWPN, Berta works directly with school leadership across our Network to ensure our campuses achieve and maintain a high level of excellence. She also oversees the development of YWPN educational initiatives to ensure program curriculum meets the educational and emotional needs of our girls and aligns with YWPN’s core values of College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills.

Berta is the eldest of four children. Her father was a farm laborer and her mother was a teaching assistant in the same school Berta and her siblings attended. Berta attributes her drive and strong work ethic to the circumstances of her childhood. At age nine, she worked in the same cotton fields that her father farmed. She worked two jobs throughout high school and college to help her family. Though her parents did not have a college education of their own, they realized its value and supported Berta’s dreams of making college a reality. Because of her experience as a first-generation college attendee and graduate, Berta is dedicated to helping remove the obstacles that impede our girls’ access to higher education.

**PRINCIPAL/KEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

Each year, YWPN hosts our Principals and College Advisors for the YWPN Leadership Institute. The Institute serves as a forum to share challenges and ideas, while developing strategies that will result in stellar outcomes for our students and campuses. The Institute helps reinforce the importance of strong leadership, the YWPN pillars of College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills, and effective strategies to support the continued success of our Network schools.

College Advisors hone their skills at the YWPN Leadership Institute.

**RECOGNIZING OUR EDUCATORS**

We developed the Educators of Excellence program to recognize and celebrate the hard work and commitment of the educators teaching our girls. This network-wide program recognizes teachers who demonstrate a strong commitment to school mission, culture, students, their practice, and the YWPN pillars of College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills. This past May, $15,000 was awarded to 16 educators from across our Network.

Stephanie Aguilara, a former YWPN student and current teacher at the Young Women’s Leadership Academy (San Antonio), received the top award.

**YWPN PRESENTS AT NATIONAL ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL CONFERENCE**

We were honored to lead the “Tuition-Free Pathway” at the Global Forum on Girls Education II Conference in Washington, D.C. in June, 2018. Over 750 educators, researchers, administrators, authors, and advocates from over 22 countries participated in the Forum. Members of the YWPN leadership team, principals, alumnae, educators, and partners led nine different sessions ranging from “The College Bound Experience: From 6th grade through College Graduation” to “The Value of Data in Single-Gender Education.” These sessions helped those in tuition-free programs understand the value of the work done through the partnership between YWPN and the public school districts that we work with, as well as the importance of college readiness programming to ensure students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college.

YWPN was proud to sponsor Sylvia Acevedo, Chief Executive Officer of Girls Scouts of the USA, as the keynote speaker for the Tuition-Free Pathway. Ms. Acevedo was part of the founding board for the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders (Austin), and is a passionate advocate for single-gender education and a supporter of STEM education.

**BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Every day, our teachers do an excellent job of educating our students within the classroom, but it doesn’t stop there. YWPN students participate in off-campus educational opportunities that bring the lessons from the classroom to life.

Students from Young Women’s Leadership Academy (Grand Prairie) visit NASA.

**OUR ALUMNAE REPRESENT YWPN at the Global Forum.**
FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATION

YWPN celebrated its 16th anniversary and Founder’s Day on May 22, 2018, with special activities across our Network of schools.

The celebration honored Texas philanthropists, Sally and Lee Posey, who established the Foundation for the Education of Young Women, now known as YWPN, in 2002. The Poseys were devoted to providing educational opportunities to low-income girls in Texas. Mr. Posey passed away in 2008, but his legacy lives on in the hallways of our eight schools across Texas.

Founder’s Day kicked off with statewide school assemblies to preview a student-produced film on the history of YWPN. The film, created by students of the Class of 2019 at the Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School (Dallas), features interviews with Lynn McBee, CEO of YWPN, former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, former Dallas ISD Superintendent Dr. Mike Moses, and other key individuals.

After the assemblies, all YWPN students received a special bracelet in their school colors acknowledging the significance of Founder’s Day and a specially created fortune cookie with an inspirational message.

8th grade girls from the Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders (Lubbock) attended a summer leadership program at Texas Tech University. Developed specifically for the students, the program helped the girls determine their individual leadership styles and showed them how to effectively deal with obstacles and overcome their fears.

2017 – 2018 DONORS

Thank you to everyone who has supported Young Women’s Preparatory Network during 2017 — 2018. Your investment in the education of young women has been TRANSFORMATIVE! We are incredibly appreciative of every dollar donated in support of our girls’ education.

4Good International Fund
ABCO, Inc.
Sunny Ackermann
Rhonda Aghamalian
Lupe Alarz
Hannah Alexander
Shama Ali
Peggy Allison
Amy and Wes Alost
Altrusa International of Downtown Dallas
The Anne Levy Charitable Trust
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Audubon Texas
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Catharine Burkett
Pam and Dan Busbee
Theresa Butler
Kiana Caleb
Kim and Greg Calhoun
Carn-Tech Products
Capital for Kids
Capital One

Our partnership with NEC Corporation of America supports Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programming at our North Texas schools. This past year, their support provided for new technology and an upgrade of the Middle School Computer Lab at the Irma Rangel School (Dallas). For the past several years, NEC has also hosted students through the YWPN Summer Internship program.
Young Women’s Preparatory Network has been the Charity of Choice for Texas Wall Street Women, a peer network of women in the finance industry, for the past 10 years. In addition to raising money to support the College Advising program at our Network schools, their members volunteer to assist with a number of initiatives including mentoring, Career Day, and financial literacy.

MOODY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS OUR WORK IN DALLAS COUNTY

YWPN received a gift from the Moody Foundation to support capacity building programs based on our core pillars of College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness Life Skills. This generous donation allows us to provide programs to ensure the college readiness of our girls.
Logan Perryman
Maria Plankinton
Tirzah Pool
Dawn Ragan
Carolyn Raiser and Andy Streitfeld
Tiffany Ramirez
Anne-Cecile Richard
L.A. Richman & Thad D. Spalding
Marian and Carl Ring
Mark Ragan
Mary Rooney
Leslie and Randy Root
Helen and W. Duke
Rosenberg, Jr.
Holly Roundtree
Kelly Rumps
Annabella Rutigliano
Debbie and Gavin Ryan
Thomas Ryan
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Scovell Family Fund of The Dallas Foundation
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Lisa Shaddock
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Shell Oil Company Foundation
Margaret and Clint Shouse
Shelle and Michael Stils
Lisa Simmons
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Michele and Rick Snyder
Kari and Michael Stack
Ashlie Alaman Stamper
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YWPN sets the standards and strategies needed to provide a comprehensive college-preparatory environment in each of our schools.

Community donations help ensure the following are provided for our students:

Rigorous Academic Environment
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Curriculum
Summer and Off-Campus Learning Experiences
College Bound Advisors
SAT/ACT Test Preparation
Professional Development
Leadership Development Initiatives
Health and Wellness Programming
HELP TRANSFORM PUBLIC EDUCATION

It is only through the generosity of community donors that we are able to provide year-round College Readiness, Leadership, and Wellness programming for our girls. These initiatives lengthen the school day, stretch the school year, and layer on experiences to ensure that our students are prepared to persist in and graduate from college.

You can help break the cycle of poverty for young girls across Texas by joining the Luminaries. YWPN Luminaries are a special group of people who believe in the power of investing in public education and the power of an education to transform lives.

As a member, you will be invited to various events throughout the year and will help ensure our students have the chance for unlimited opportunity through education.

TEXT “YWPN” TO 50155 OR VISIT YOUNGWOMENSPREP.ORG/SUPPORT.

To learn more about our important work transforming public education, visit youngwomensprep.org.

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Patty Leyendecker, Chief Development Officer
Christie Carter, Director of External Affairs
Cindy Ryan, Director of Development

FINANCE
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Katie Abbritton, Director of Partnerships
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