



President's Message

I want to thank Deb Denbeck and Cheryl Murray for a wonderful November meeting held at Partnership 4 Kids. Deb shared the many challenges kids in our community face and the ways that Partnership 4 Kids and community volunteers make a difference every day. We were treated to delicious Indian cuisine from Shahi Indian Grill located across from the Burlington Building. We now look forward to our December meeting at Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City. We greatly appreciate those who are able to join us for the meeting and dinner but must drive back that night. Expect some coaxing to stay! It will be fun to spend some extra time together by staying overnight.

I am pleased to welcome Missy Peters, our third representative from Burlington Capital! Missy, we are glad you are part of our group and we look forward to getting to know you better.

During this holiday season, I hope you will be able to appreciate each day and enjoy your friends and family. With all the stress of trying to make it "perfect", I hope you are able to let that go and remember that perfect is your **time** with friends and family because **the times** will be what they remember.

On behalf of our dedicated EWI Board, we wish you a very safe and happy holiday season!



Rhonda Silvey
President
EWI of Omaha 2018-2019

2018-2019 Officers and Directors

President

Rhonda Silvey, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE
rhonda.silvey@nebraskablue.com

President-Elect

Jonna Radtke, The Lund Company
jradtke@lundco.com

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Sharon Mize, Green Plains
sharon.mize@gpreinc.com

Communications Director

Jordan Stocking, Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
jstocking@olliewebbinc.org

Retention & Recruitment Director

Glenda Land, United Way of the Midlands
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Melissa Travis, McFarlin & Brokke, P.C.
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Laura Bonnett-Murphy, Girls Inc. of Omaha
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Director At-Large

Gretchen Radler, Bloom Companion Care
gretchen@bloomcompanion.com

Board Advisor

Diana Busche, Bland & Associates
dbusche@blandcpa.com

Upcoming Chamber Events

Take advantage of EWI Omaha's Chamber membership and attend these events:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 5 | Holiday Chef Potluck at Kitchen Council |
| December 7 | CreativeMornings - Tradition |
| December 11 | Coffee & Contacts |
| December 13 | Inside the C-Suite |

Please check out this link to find out more details on each event:

<https://www.omahachamber.org/members/events/>

Raffle Donations Needed! We need raffle items for our upcoming chapter meetings to raise money for our chapter! If you or your company would like to donate, please contact Melissa Travis - email: melissat@mcbrok.com or at (319) 330-5419.

Thank you in advance!

Interested in getting more involved with EWI? We have new representatives that recently joined and we are in need of mentors for these new reps!

If you can help in any way, it would be most appreciated! Please contact Glenda Land if interested at gland@uwmidlands.org.

THRIVE @ FIVE



Sometimes there isn't enough time to chat at our monthly meetings. Thrive @ Five is casual conversations and connections for our Chapter members to meet and get to know each other a little better. Feel free to invite someone new to join us! We will meet quarterly for just this purpose.

Next Social: January 31, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Corkscrew Wine & Cheese – 10924 Prairie Brook Road
Come join the fun!

2019 Dates
Thursday, April 18th
Thursday, July 18th
Thursday, October 17th

This is a section of the newsletter where we will put a spotlight on one of our executives from one of our member firms. If you are interested in spotlighting your executive, please let Jordan Stocking know. Thank you!

President & CEO

For nearly 7½ years, Denbeck has overseen the day-to-day operations and the strategic vision of Partnership 4 Kids, a mentoring and college bound program that serves low income students from pre-kindergarten to and through postsecondary. Today, the organization serves close to 6,000 students in five levels of programming.

Commonly known as P4K, Partnership 4 Kids is the merger of two youth serving organizations: All Our Kids and The Winners Circle. These organizations came together to create and ensure a continuum of service that begins during the early years of elementary through postsecondary education.

- In 1989, Gail and Mike Yanney, started Yanney's Kids, later to be called All Our Kids. The Principal at McMillian Middle School selected twenty-five 7th grade students for the original class. These were students with similar backgrounds: had grown up in poverty, displayed potential, but for many reasons were performing at a lower academic level. The students met regularly, each received a mentor, and every student was promised a college scholarship providing they stayed out of trouble and graduated from high school. Today, that first class is excelling in their careers and many have achieved several advanced degrees.
- Jerry and Cookie Hoberman, local business people in North Omaha, wanted to give back to the community. As a result, they founded The Winners Circle at Belvedere Elementary in 1996. This program was incentive-based to help increase self-confidence through goal setting in academics and life skills.
- Mary and Dick Holland served as a defining common thread within both organizations, believing that every young person was the future of our community and our state, and their environment did not have to define them. And in 2007, the two joined forces and became P4K.

Today, P4K, serves students in 22 Omaha Public Schools: 12 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 5 high schools. After high school graduation, these young people are attending several postsecondary institutions within the state of Nebraska and are preparing to enter the work force.

Under Denbeck's leadership, the program has grown the number of students served by increasing the number of schools. At each level, clear measurements are set along within a curriculum that deepens and includes life skills, career exploration activities, community service, finance, academics, and college visits. Students begin experiencing postsecondary education as early as 4th grade. The program is designed so students have support from a mentor and a caring P4K program coordinator, and both are critical to the student's success. With this type of instruction and guidance students become proactive in building their future plans. The model also collaborates with similar college access programs in grades 11 and 12 for programming so there is no duplication of service. The largest investment and growth of the program has been at the college level.

The Corner Office

With Deb Denbeck



Each P4K student who graduates from high school and completes all the program requirements can apply for a scholarship through the endowment. These students receive extensive programming and case management with offices at UNO and MCC (Metropolitan Community College).

Students are succeeding at every level through P4K; they are attending more days of school and achieving higher GPA's than those not involved in the program. P4K also boasts a 98% high school graduation rate with over 91% pursuing postsecondary education.

Prior to accepting the reins at P4K, Deb Denbeck spent 30 years working in higher education; twenty-one of those years as a collegiate volleyball and softball coach at College of Saint Mary and volleyball coach and Associate Athletic Director at Southwest MN State University in Marshall, MN. Denbeck returned to Nebraska in 2003 and served as the Associate Athletic Director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, directed the UNO Women's Walk, and then went on to serve as the Director of Philanthropy at Creighton University working with both Creighton Athletics and the School of Dentistry.

Denbeck also serves as a P4K mentor. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, playing golf, and gardening. An avid sports enthusiast, Denbeck enjoys attending sporting events at both Nebraska and Creighton, commonly known as a "Jaysker."

EWI Webinars

Maximize Your Confidence: Being Bolder in the Face of Big Challenges

Presenter: Leslie Beale,
Executive & Developmental Coach
Founder, Profusion Strategies

Tuesday, January 8, 2019
3:00 PM EST / 12:00 PM PST



ewi PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WEBINARS

WILL YOU CONSIDER DONATING?

Bland & Associates, P.C. is having their semi-annual Blood Drive

When: Thursday, January 17, 2019
Where: 450 Regency Parkway Suite 120, Training Room
What time: 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
How do I sign up? Online at [Blood Drive Sign Up](#)

Questions: Contact Diana Busche at dbusche@blandcpa.com



**American
Red Cross** | Blood
Services



**Congratulations to Cindy Brickey on
the birth of her first grandchild,
Jensen!**

**Jensen was born on November 6,
2018 at
7 pounds and 12 ounces. Thanks for
all your prayers and well wishes
during his stay in the NICU!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EWI® Board Meeting
January 8, 2019

EWI® December Monthly Meeting
December 7, 2018
Lied Lodge in Nebraska City

EWI® January Monthly Meeting
January 23, 2019
Outlook Nebraska Inc.

***Dinner will be at seven. Please
bring a yoga mat and comfy
clothes.***

2019 Chapter Meeting Schedule

Mark your calendars!

January 23
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26
July 24
August 28
September 25
October 23
November – TBD
December - TBD

Member Spotlight

At each meeting, a different member of EWI will tell the chapter a little bit about themselves. A big thank you to Rhonda Silvey for being the first volunteer! Names will be drawn to select the presenter for the next meeting.

December Presenter: Jordan Stocking
January Presenter: Michelle Miller



SHARE THE NEWS!

Send submissions for the chapter newsletter to:

Contact: Jordan Stocking
Phone: 402-350-1686
E-mail: jstocking@olliewebbinc.org

This includes any Awards/KUDOS/Special Events

ATTENTION MEMBERS: If you are NOT receiving the Corporate EWI Connect, which is emailed monthly, please let Cheryl McCall know and she will follow up with corporate to get you on the distribution list. Her email address is cmccall@accessbank.com. Thank you.

PLEASE SHARE!

Forward this copy of the EWI Omaha Connect to your Firm Executive and let them know that the EWI Omaha Chapter is promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement!

If your firm is interested in hosting an EWI of Omaha Chapter meeting, please reach out to our Program Director, Sharon Mize at sharon.mize@gpreinc.com

If you know of an occasion where we need to send a card on behalf of our membership, please email Cindy Brickey at cbrickey@visitomaha.com



December

- Diana Busche December 9
- Jordan Stocking December 10
- Sharon Mize December 10
- Darlis Vauble December 12
- Patty McElderry December 17
- Melissa Swan December 27

January

- Stacie Robertson January 9
- Ashly Van Houten January 10
- Gretchen Radler January 20
- Paula Cooper January 22
- Chris Buckingham January 24



EWI Omaha Chapter FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/ewiomaha>

EWI Omaha Chapter Website
www.ewi-omaha.org

EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL® Corporate Office

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November Photos



EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL OMAHA CHAPTER

ATTENDANCE REPORT

November 14, 2018

Program: Partnership 4 Kids

Member Firms:	<u>22</u>
Representatives:	26
Life Members:	1
Sustaining Members:	1
Guests:	<u>2</u>
Total Attendance:	30

*Percent of Total Firms:	50%
*Percent of Total Representatives:	48%
Firms	44
Representatives	54
Life Members	11
Sustaining Members	1

October 24, 2018

Program: Marriott Downtown Capitol District Firm Night

Member Firms:	<u>29</u>
Representatives:	35
Life Members:	0
Sustaining Members:	0
Guests:	<u>14</u>
Total Attendance:	49

*Percent of Total Firms:	66%
*Percent of Total Representatives:	65%
Firms	44
Representatives	54
Life Members	11
Sustaining Members	1

Submitted by: Cindy Brickey, EWI Sergeant-at-Arms

EWI – Omaha Chapter Member Firms and Representatives

A New Leaf – Sheila Fitzgerald

Access Bank – Cheryl McCall

Aflac – Melissa Swan

AOI Corporation – Janet Schawang

Bland & Associates, PC – Hilary Allen, Diana Busche

Bloom Companion Care – Gretchen Radler

*Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska – Julie
Pendegraft, Rhonda Silvey*

Borsheims – Chris Buckingham

*Burlington Capital – Rachel Jesske, Missy Peters,
Ruth Utman*

CHI Health – Susan Hussey

Doubletree Hotel by Hilton – Staci Drozda

Element Omaha - TBD

First Westroads Bank – Amy Hansen

Girls Incorporated of Omaha – Laura Bonnett-Murphy

*Greater Omaha Chamber – Lindsay Christiansen, Kim
DiMari, Ashly Van Houten*

Green Plains, Inc. – Sharon Mize

Habitat for Humanity – Jennifer Worth

HDR – Paula Cooper

*Hyatt Place Omaha, Downtown Old Market –
Trish Bauermeister*

*Lied Lodge & Conference Center/Arbor Day
Foundation – TBD*

Lund Company, The – Jane Heath, Jonna Radtke

Mahogany Prime Steakhouse – Shilo Stueckrath

Manpower – Karla Keegan

Marriott Downtown at Capitol District – Patty Bain

McFarlin & Brokke, P.C. – Melissa Travis

Methodist Health System – Kathie Reilly

Midwest Maintenance – Itzel Gonzalez

Mutual of Omaha Bank – Amy Ayer, Audrey Farley

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. – Jordan Stocking

Omaha Steaks – Kristin Gochenour

Outlook Nebraska – Donna Faust Aman, Susanne Waltermeyer

Partnership 4 Kids – Cheryl Murray

*Signature Performance – Deb Holzworth, Dangie Jansen, Angie
Murphy, Stacie Robertson*

Silverstone Group – Marcia Hofmann, Michelle Miller

Tenaska – Lauren Clark

Tero International – Becky Rupiper-Greene

Travel and Transport – Karin Holmes

United Republic Bank – TBD

United Way of the Midlands – Glenda Land

Visit Omaha – Cindy Brickey

West Corporation – Lori Mitera

WoodmenLife – Darlis Vauble

Sustaining Member – Carolyn McClean

Transitional Member – Kayla Jones, Amy Keltner, Rachel Schizas

*Life Members- Jane Allamong, Carol Armstrong, Cathy
Bodammer, Sue Burkhard, Loy Flanagan, Lenore Honke,
Sally Komrofske, Patricia Leonard, Patty McElderry, Ellie
Morrow*

Our Mission

Executive Women International (EWI) brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.



CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

Our Vision

To be a global women's organization of 5,000 engaged members empowering others for positive change.

Our Values

Integrity | Excellence | Respect | Collaboration