



# inspiring achievement

## Phyllis Freyer Leads 2015 WOA

Phyllis Freyer, vice president at Renown Health, is chair of the 2015 Salute to Women of Achievement luncheon. With 33 years' experience in healthcare and insurance including more than 10 years with Renown, Phyllis is a 2007 Woman of Achievement and also served on the NWF board of directors. "It is an honor to serve as chair of the 2015 luncheon" Freyer said. "This event serves as recognition for women in the region for their professional, personal and community achievements."

Dr. Connie Mariano is the featured

keynote speaker. Dr. "Connie" served nine years at the White House where she was physician to three American Presidents: George H.W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton and George W. Bush. In 1994 she was named Director of the White House Medical Unit and became the first Filipino-American to be promoted to Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. She is the author of the book, *The White House Doctor: My Patients were Presidents, A Memoir*. Her experience does not stop there. Dr. Mariano is a certified concierge physician, author, and



Phyllis Freyer, Vice President Renown Health  
Event Chair

radio host and serves as president of the Center for Executive Medicine (CEM) since 2005. (More information on the 2015 Salute to Women of Achievement luncheon can be found on the back panel.)

## 2015 Nevada Women's Fund Board Alumnae 250 Remain Passionate about *Inspiring Achievement*



Frítsi Ericson and Lynn Atcheson  
Photo by Cristina Neveras

In 2014 the NWF Board Alumnae committee was formed to gather and raise funds for scholarship awards. Last year the group raised \$8,425 in scholarship funds. This year was no exception when the alumnae came together to toast 33 years of community service that remains alive and thriving. The event took place on February 3, at the Aura Lounge in the Silver Legacy and resulted in nearly

\$10,000 being raised for scholarship awards to deserving women.

The Nevada Women's Fund has benefited from many community supporters throughout the years, and one group is former NWF board members. They remain constant in the level of time and dedication put forth to realize the mission of *inspiring achievement* in women and families. Each year they will gather to



Sharon Wurm, Maria Sheehan and Beth Cooney  
Photo by Cristina Neveras



Dawn Ahner, Andrea Cantlon, Joan Dees  
Photo by Cristina Neveras

create more opportunities and to celebrate successes that have come from working together.

With their help and support, the Nevada Women's Fund has managed to *inspire achievement* in many women in our northern Nevada community. There is no limit to what can happen when you get a room full of strong, passionate and committed women working toward the same goal with the NWF mission in mind.

## President's Message



Isabelle Rodriguez Wilson, President and CEO  
Photo by: LSN Studios

Through its 33 years, the Nevada Women's Fund has seen tremendous growth, from the number of devoted donors, foundations, board members and cause-oriented community members, to the support available for women and families in the region. With multiple announcements of major economic development coming to our area, we know change is on the horizon for northern Nevada.

The announcements of Tesla Motor's \$5 billion gigafactory battery plant, Apple's \$1 billion data center; SWITCH's "superloop" data center expansion, a bio-fuels plant and the exciting UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) program at University of Nevada, Reno, will bring demand on our region's workforce.

This expanding workforce demand in industry and green technologies is an exciting opportunity for our region and the NWF. A pool of educated and credentialed individuals is more important than ever. Through its mission, and the generosity of our donors, NWF can aid in the development of educated and skilled workers.

It makes tremendous economic sense to support women in their quest to complete their educations. Their efforts to be productive and contributing citizens, benefits our local and state economy. They are role models for their children as well as contributors to the region's economic growth. Private sector support for uplifting women and their families is more crucial than ever. The benefits of your continued support spread and grow throughout our changing community. Consider forming a scholarship to develop a workforce candidate. We are grateful for your community contributions.

## An Intern's Vision: Maya Merlis

As I approach the end of my undergraduate studies in journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, I have started to ask myself the pertinent question: What will be next? As unnerving as this question is, I am becoming more and more confident in whatever that may be, as my internship begins to unfold.

Coming into my NWF internship, I was unsure of what experiences I wanted to gain, and what I wanted to learn from my time here. As soon as I met the women at the Nevada Women's Fund, I knew what it was that I wanted to learn—EVERYTHING! From the moment I walked in the door I was received with warmth and joy. I immediately knew this was the place I wanted to be.

Working with such amazing women,

I expect to learn so much. From understanding non-profit structure and programs to things about life in general. Already I have experienced moments of inspiration that can happen anywhere, be it a board member committee meeting or a late afternoon chat in Isabelle's office.

It is not only the work that the women do that inspires, it is the passion with which it is done. I would truly consider my NWF internship a success if I left only knowing how to be passionate and connect with people like the women of the Fund.

I may not know what my future holds, but I look forward to every experience I will gain. I look forward to leaving an inspired, confident, capable woman, ready to achieve, and inspire others through that achievement.

## 7th Annual Power of the Purse

The 7th Annual Power of the Purse took place on November 21, 2014 at the Downtown Reno Ballroom. It was a full floor during the holiday event with 70 vendors on site, resulting in great success of nearly 850 people in attendance, and \$40,000 raised.

The vendors featured everything, from handmade creations, to beautiful flower arrangements, to delicious treats. Not only were friends able to shop these fantastic vendors, they were also able to win a designer purse in the big raffle. The purse raffle consisted of 16 purses



Power of the Purse 2014  
Photo by Cristina Neveras



Power of the Purse 2014  
Photo by Cristina Neveras

with brands ranging from Michael Kors, and Kate Spade to Ralph Lauren, just to name a few. After the tickets were drawn, there were 14 lucky winners that went home with beautiful designer bags. Two women were so fortunate they each won two designer bags.

The event not only allowed people to shop, eat and mingle, at the same time they supported the Fund's mission of *inspiring achievement* in women and families throughout our community

## Our Region's Growing Needs

### How NWF Contributes to Women and the Workforce

Projected demand for technology and green jobs coming to the Nevada region has increased, promoting the importance of education in preparing our workforce. Women are also predicted to have higher participation in filling these positions. The Nevada Women's Fund is one of the few community assets supporting women in northern Nevada. It is taking a broader perspective and directly contributing to developing our skilled workforce. It's exciting to see women prepare for employment opportunities in these fields. When it comes to education, Nevada Women's Fund stands as a bedrock for women pursuing degrees at any level of higher education.

NWF education scholarships provide a financial pathway that eases the pressure on women seeking higher education. As many women know, any lapse in schooling means a further risk in never returning. The NWF understands these struggles and sacrifices of women; they have created financial pathways to help fulfill women's dreams. They also underscore the case-specific needs of each woman that applies for a scholarship.

The Nevada Women's Fund has been an important part of me pursuing my doctoral studies in education leadership and management. So often, women bear the duties of household and children, and leave very little time to develop themselves. A mother of three and deeply involved with my community, we made a family decision that allowed me to return to student life so I can earn a doctorate degree. Work and family time were obvious sacrifices. But the support sys-



**About the author:** Dee Frewert is a 2014 NWF Scholarship recipient and a doctoral candidate at Drexel University.

tem I have with NWF and my family, have allowed me to endure. NWF not only celebrates women by believing in their dreams and appreciating their circumstances, but also recognizing the importance of celebrating the educational journey. Now a doctoral candidate, my educational goal is within reach and I have NWF to thank for that unbelievable feeling. Among dozens of women who have made the leap with scholarships from NWF, I have experienced not only financial relief, but an opening of other opportunities that involve leadership roles and working with transitional programs for adults.

Great opportunities exist for women. For northern Nevada, it has become more important to acquire the skills and competencies that new employers seek, such as Amazon and Tesla. Growth in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's) and the industries that involve the engineering, supply, and use of these UAV's have brought excitement to the state. In 2014, under the College of Engineering, the Uni-

versity of Nevada, Reno launched an unmanned autonomous system minor degree to prepare candidates in this sector. It is important to consider that the fastest growing technical occupations, such as energy production technology and information technology, demand skills most often acquired in settings aside from four-year college degree programs such as community college programs. Across the spectrum of education levels, jobs that require a master's degree are expected to grow 21.7 percent through 2020, faster than other education level (*The Increasing Importance of a Graduate Degree, By Debra Legg, Guide to Graduate Education, 3/14/14*). In light of these promising opportunities, NWF continues to encourage women to dream. The scholarship and support structures that NWF offers women provides access that means any woman who has the will can take advantage of these new employment opportunities.

#### **Board of Directors**

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## Our Mission

The Nevada Women's Fund is dedicated to strengthening its community by empowering women to improve their lives and those of their families. We identify critical social needs and address those needs through scholarships and community grant making.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### 2015 Salute to Women of Achievement

May 28 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
JA Nugget— Rose Ballroom  
Tickets - \$125 | Table of 10 - \$1,250

*Keynote Speaker*  
**Dr. Connie Mariano**

### 2015 Power of the Purse

November 21 | 5-9 p.m.  
Tickets - \$40



### Nevada Women's Fund

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Info@nevadawomensfund.org

Non-profit org.  
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Reno, NV  
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## YES! I WANT TO *INSPIRE ACHIEVEMENT* IN HOPEFUL WOMEN & FAMILIES TODAY

The Nevada Women's Fund is a Nevada corporation and IRS designated 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization formed to strengthen its community through education scholarships and community grant making. Your generous donation may be tax deductible.

Federal Tax # 94-2860375

*Checks payable to:*  
Nevada Women's Fund  
770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300  
Reno, NV 89502



Like what the Fund is doing? Like us on Facebook for more information on events and view photos!

### NWF makes inspiring achievement simple:

- Make a general donation to support NWF's mission of inspiring achievement in women and families.
- Form a restricted scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 annually.
- Become a member of the NWF Giving Circle by making a minimum 3 year pledge of \$2,500 or more annually to award grant funds for needed community services.
- Establish an endowment account with a minimum and principal donation of \$10,000, held in perpetuity.

\$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100

Other \_\_\_\_\_  Enclosed check

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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(NL Spring 2015)