



2021 Slate of Candidates for the AWBC Board of Directors

Ruth Garcia, New Economics for Women Women's Business Center (CA)



Ruth Garcia-Corrales is the Director for New Economics for Women-Women's Business Center. For her leadership, innovative workshops, providing access to capital, and exceeding the Center's goals, Ruth was awarded The Women's Business Center of Excellence Award for District IX from the SBA. Before the Women's Business Center Ruth managed the West Valley Business Source Center a program from the Los Angeles Mayor's Office. Ruth is the former Consul General of Republic of Costa Rica for the U.S. West Coast, appointed by the President of Costa Rica. She holds a degree in Engineering from the University of Costa Rica, co-founder of the Central American Federation of Nations, composed of all the Consul Generals of C.A., working together on issues affecting their communities. She is the author of What it Takes, from \$20 to \$200 Million.

Dr. Dannellia Gladden Green, Women's Business Center Richmond (VA)



Dr. Danni Gladden Green is a seasoned leader with strong entrepreneurial instincts. She has demonstrated success in varied professional capacities that include engineering, strategic marketing, contract negotiation, economic inclusion, human capital management, supply chain and general management. Her industry and experiential expertise include Wireless Communications, Consumer Electronics, Device Manufacturing, and Healthcare. As the founder of SAGEsse Consulting LLC, Dr. Danni's firm consults in the areas of market strategy and business development. With an industry pedigree that includes semiconductors, consumer electronics, and healthcare, she has held senior leadership roles of increasing complexity, responsibilities and budgets with Texas Instruments, Motorola-Freescale, Dell Computers and Owens & Minor. Standing up a new Women's Business Center in Richmond, Dr. Danni assumed leadership of this program of the National Institute for Minority Economic Development in January of 2021.



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Tarsha Polk Hearn- LiftFund Dallas Fort Worth Women's Business Center (TX)



Tarsha Polk Hearn is an experienced professional with over 20 years of combined marketing, sales, corporate training and entrepreneurial expertise. Affectionately known as, the Marketing Lady, she currently serves as the Director of the LiftFund Dallas Fort Worth Women's Business Center. Tarsha leads a team that provides training, guidance and resources to entrepreneurs seeking to start or grow a business. Tarsha is an engaged member of the local business community and has received numerous awards including Dallas Start-Up Week's Entrepreneur Evangelist of the Year, 40 Under 40 in Collin County, Business Person of the Year, Women in the Media Award and the Leadership Award from National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). She is an advocate for women and minority businesses and uses her gifts and talents to make an impact in the community. She is past president of NAWBO's Dallas chapter, served on the DISD Minority and Women Business Enterprise Advisory Committee and was a founding board member of the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce.

Katty Ibarra- San Diego & Imperial Women's Business Center (CA)



Katty Ibarra is the Director of the San Diego & Imperial Women's Business Center, hosted by Southwestern College. Katty is a bilingual small business owner excited to empower female entrepreneurs by leading the WBC, creating programs, providing business advising, and training to secure women's economic justice and entrepreneurial opportunities. Katty holds a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from the Universidad del Valle de Mexico and a Master's of Science in Marketing from National University, with extensive branding, marketing, and social media experience. Katty owns a binational marketing firm and has more than 15 years of experience in small business and marketing strategies.



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Sophia Kanaan- California Capital Women's Business Center (CA)



Sophia Kanaan is the Director of California Capital Women's Business Center, a mission based non-profit dedicated to serving underserved communities in the Sacramento region. With a Master's in Public Administration from McGeorge School of Law and bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Women's Studies from the University of California, Davis, Sophia is passionate about community growth and the success of small business owners and entrepreneurs. In her free time, Sophia loves to spend time with her husband and 2 year old daughter.

Jackie Perrault- Jacksonville Women's Business Center (FL)



Possessing a keen ability to navigate resources and connect with people, Jackie is director of the Jacksonville Women's Business Center, a program that oversees the expansion of entrepreneurial and economic development of women business owners and leaders in Northeast Florida. In addition to serving as the center's liaison with the U.S. Small Business Administration's North Florida District Office, she oversees all JWBC operations including client programs, community partnerships, media relations, fundraising and its ATHENA Powerlink professional mentoring program. In her first year, she supervised a digital transformation that allows entrepreneurs to participate in educational programs online and implemented an online classroom with a help desk for virtual communication and efficient mentoring feedback. Jackie has launched two programs including Peer Pitch and Mentor Connect and is getting ready to pilot Hyper Connected Mentoring which will prepare women business owners for in-depth discovery and training to grow their business.



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Mary Anne Petrillo- West Women's Business Center (CA)



Mary Anne Petrillo has been CEO of the West Business Development Center host to the Mendocino Women's Business Center since 2017. She was hired to build capacity and deliver new programs to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs in the new rural economy. She came to this position with decades of management experience and business ownership. Petrillo's resume includes over 25 years of strategic marketing and communication experience in education and the high-tech sector. She began her career as an entrepreneur, running her own communications agency in downtown San Francisco, serving clients in the financial, healthcare, and construction industries. Previously working for Cisco's Corporate Social Responsibility global efforts, she created high profile media campaigns for Cisco Networking Academy and brokered partnerships with Intel, Microsoft and Apple in support of education and lifelong learning. In her role as a non-profit leader, she advocates regionally and nationally for rural small businesses to have equal opportunities to unlock their innovation and growth potential.

Cindy Ramos-Davidson- El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (TX)



The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's mission is to be the preeminent resource for the success of small, minority, veteran, and women-owned businesses. Ramos-Davidson's vision led her to take that mission and transform it to full entrepreneurial generating complex. She managed to bring three important centers to one convenient location, a key component in economically enriching the borderland region. The Entrepreneurial Technical Assistance Centers comprise of the Minority Business Development Agency (funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce), the Women's Business Border Center (funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration), and the Texas Business Opportunity & Development Center (funded by Texas Department of Transportation). Borderland businesses are able to access quality and valuable networking events, seminars, capital, technical assistance, certifications, and procurement opportunities. It is because of these initiatives that in 2001 Ramos-Davidson received the U.S. Small Business Administration Minority Advocate of the Year Award.



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Heidi Sheppard - DC Women's Business Center (DC)



Heidi Sheppard has been leading the DCWBC since September 2020. She brought her extensive experience working in support of economic development along with her collaborative leadership style, to the Center. Prior to the DCWBC role, she served on the Partnership Team at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) developing strategic partnerships with other federal agencies to further MEP's mission. She led the Advanced Manufacturing Jobs and Innovation Challenge initiative, a five federal agency effort to grow and strengthen manufacturing industries in regional economies. While at MEP, Heidi went on a detail to the National Endowment for the Arts where she researched the value of industrial design for small and medium sized manufacturers and co-authored a report, "Industrial Design: A Competitive Edge for U. S. Manufacturing Success in the Global Economy".

She served as the Senior Program Manager for the Maryland Incubator Program at the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and was instrumental in expanding both the incubator assistance program and the network of incubator facilities for the State of Maryland.

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