

# Oklahoma City EWI Connect

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June 2020

## Letter from the President



Dear EWI of Oklahoma City,

When we received a message from our Corporate President, Felicia Senter, I was grateful to have wise words of leadership to look to as I contemplated what this month's President message would look like. I've chosen to include some of

Felicia's words below while also echoing portions of her message in my own way as we move forward in pursuit of a better tomorrow.

*The world has changed a lot over the past six months, including COVID-19, economic fallout and now, civil unrest. I realize that each of these situations have had differing levels of impact on individuals across our organization and country. I would like to express my empathy and support. At this time I ask that we all reflect on EWI's Values - **Integrity, Excellence, Respect and Collaboration** – while also reflecting on EWI's Vision: “**To enhance professional growth and development within a diverse group of women while empowering them to make a difference as they inspire others.**”*

EWI of Oklahoma City is comprised of resilient leaders who focus on **empowering, engaging and inspiring others**. We pursue philanthropic efforts which uplift the underserved in our community. We exemplify this through projects with organizations like ReMerge and The Dragonfly Home and programs like ASIST and the Reading Rally. We will continue to positively impact our community and serve our members while demonstrating our Values and personifying our Vision.

With gratitude,

Christine Laird  
Oklahoma City Chapter President  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

### 2019-2020 Officers & Directors

#### President

Christine Laird, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

#### Vice President/President-Elect

Sierra Eberle, Arvest Bank

#### Secretary/Co-Treasurer

Michelle Ferguson, Skyline on Bricktown Canal, LLC

#### Co-Treasurer

Ramona Carey, SSM Health

#### Program Co-Directors

Carrie Parker, The Sheraton Downtown Hotel & Julie Schmiedeskamp, Colcord Hotel

#### Sergeant-At-Arms

Kelly Hamilton-Coyer, OGE Energy Corp.

## Community Partner Update: ReMerge Welcomes New Executive Director Jenna Morey

ReMerge is thrilled to welcome its new executive director upon the retirement of Terri Woodland. Jenna Morey becomes the second executive director of ReMerge since its founding in 2011. Morey comes to ReMerge from Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma where she served as Vice President of Workforce Development. Prior to joining Goodwill, Morey led state efforts to expand apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities under the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development and, before that, spent nearly a decade working with international nonprofits.

“I am thrilled to join the talented team at ReMerge and be a part of an organization that helps mothers facing incarceration transform their lives. The impact of ReMerge’s work reverberates through generations and I am honored to bring my passion, experience, and energy to the organization’s dedicated staff, board and community supporters. Together we will build upon ReMerge’s successful history and amplify our reach and ability to improve the lives of the women we serve.”

Board chair, Bevan Stockdell says, “Jenna brings to ReMerge a strong background in workforce development and social enterprise. Stable employment and wages that can support a family are critical for the lifetime success of our graduates. We are particularly excited about Jenna’s ability to create supportive employment opportunities at ReMerge and build upon our relationships with Fair Chance Employers in the city.”

With a new building and executive director, ReMerge is excited to begin a new chapter in serving women and children throughout central Oklahoma. Jenna can be reached by email at [jmorey@remergeok.org](mailto:jmorey@remergeok.org) or by phone 405-208—7201.

\*This feature was pulled from ReMerge’s Facebook page

## News and Notes: Fundraising Update

Like many other non-profits, EWI of Oklahoma City had to make some important decisions regarding fundraising as we began to anticipate the economic effects of COVID-19.

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 fiscal year our fundraising goal was \$22,394. To reach this goal we planned to receive our annual disbursement from our endowment with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, host our annual wine tasting fundraiser, re-apply for grants and seek out charitable contributions. In April, the Board made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s wine tasting fundraiser as we did not feel it was in our best interest to seek charitable support from our members and the community at large knowing there were more critical needs to focus on.

Though we cancelled this year’s fundraiser, we are still having a successful year raising funds for our Business/Career/Development Program. To date we’ve received \$5,373 in grant monies and charitable contributions. We also received our annual disbursement from our endowment which totaled \$7,394. That brings our total for the year to \$12,767, more than fifty percent of our pre-COVID fundraising goal.

Currently we have two grant applications pending: a \$2,000 grant request with the Enterprise Foundation and a \$2,500 grant request with the OGE Foundation.

We are deeply grateful for every form of support we have received this year to continue our good philanthropic works through our Business/Career/Development Program.

### DATES TO NOTE

**June 9, 2020 at 5:30PM**  
Virtual Program Meeting led by member Debbie Davis, Quest Executive Services: **Maximize the Contribution of Your Voice – Know Yourself to Lead Yourself for EWI.** Dial-in information can be found within meeting invitation.

**June 30, 2020 at 12PM**  
June Board Meeting, Virtual



### June Birthdays

**June 5 – Shannon Brown, The Sheraton OKC Downtown Hotel**

**June 10 – Dana Nursick, Representative, Benchmark Financial Services & Ramona Carey, Representative, SSM Health**

**Happiest of birthdays to all!**