

# Work Force

ARIZONA WOMEN'S EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT, INC. **AWEE**  
works!

## Governor Napolitano Lauded as Champion for Women and Children

She was honored, applauded, serenaded and became the topic of trivia questions. So the 900-plus audience at the AWEE Faces of Success Luncheon now know the Governor's favorite food is not SpaghettiO's® – it is, in fact, ice cream!

Governor Janet Napolitano received the Jeanne Lind Herberger award in recognition of her support for AWEE, and her leadership toward the economic advancement of women and children, as well as her support of numerous community initiatives. Jeanne Lind Herberger, the namesake of AWEE's prestigious award introduced the Governor as "an individual of singular vision who has transformed the cultural landscape of the state." She went on to say that her dedication to creating "superior minds" in our children and supporting pay increases to give them quality teachers has moved our state in a "direction toward greatness."

Governor Napolitano joins the ranks of others who have been recognized with the Jeanne Lind Herberger Award including: Elva Coor; Betsey Bayless; Mary Jane Rynd; Deborah Carstens; Diane Halle; and Jeanne Lind Herberger who received the inaugural award.

Governor Napolitano is the first woman and governor to chair the National Governor's Association and was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the nation's top five governors. She has focused much of her efforts on making Arizona more competitive in this 21st century marketplace by aligning educational systems to workplace expectations.



Governor Janet Napolitano (second from left) receives the Jeanne Lind Herberger award in recognition of her support of AWEE. Joining her are (from left) Marie Sullivan, AWEE President & CEO; Mary Ellen Simonson, AWEE Board Chair and partner at Lewis & Roca; and Jeanne Lind Herberger, an AWEE founder and long-time champion.



Governor Napolitano addresses the 900+ crowd at the AWEE luncheon and shared her concern for women and children's issues and their connection to advancing the health of the state.

## Pantyhose and "Red Heels" Support AWEE

Young leaders and those who have been around the block are making things happen for AWEE. The Special Projects Committee (SPC), founded by board member Lenora Greene, is made up of a group of young professionals who are committed to community leadership early in their careers and making a difference in women's lives, which includes recruiting and engaging other young women in supporting AWEE's mission. They have hosted events and gatherings including a reception and guided tour of the Impressionist Exhibit at Phoenix Art Museum and a Wildlife Wine Party. **May 15 is the date for the group's signature event – Pantyhose at Portland's.** More details are coming soon! But mark your calendars today.

Many community leaders and business women are digging in their heels to support AWEE through its special Trackers club. Several founders and board members kicked off the group's annual giving program with support at the \$1,000 and above level.

AWEE board member and Trackers chair, Georgia Ray Wolfe, says one of the membership perks includes "two evenings a season where we get together to relax and compare notes on our personal and business trials, tribulations, and successes – perhaps learn some techniques for handling all of the above – and sometimes just plain laugh at ourselves." The first of these bi-annual gatherings was held in January and brought together current and potential Trackers at a private central Phoenix residence.

For more details on each of these groups, visit <http://awee.org/getinvolved.html>.



## The 12th Annual AWEE Faces of Success Luncheon takes guests on a transformational journey...



Wells Fargo volunteers stand ready to greet luncheon guests and offer them a special lanyard highlighting 10 different stories of an outstanding AWEE participant's journey of transformation. Special thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona for sponsoring the lanyards and Wells Fargo for being such enthusiastic partners in the Faces of Success event.



Networking was in full gear at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa as AWEE welcomed a record crowd of 900 fun-loving and kind-hearted women revved up to change lives and win fun giveaways and silent auction items.



DELSTAR Group owner and community leader, Pam Del Duca, announced the establishment of a scholarship fund in her name and encouraged guests, by passing the hat, to take part and help "more people reframe their path and consider new directions."



Even members of the media jumped into the competition! Angela Gonzales, a reporter with *The Business Journal*, shows off her vocal talents in an operatic competition serenading the Governor to win a fabulous gift.



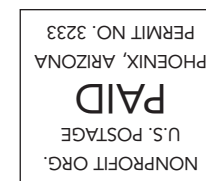
Event co-emcee, Bill Austin, eggs on former board member Donna Schober (left) and current board member Georgia Wolfe (middle) as they challenge one another for a KEZ radio prize.



Generosity for AWEE participants was in abundance at the luncheon. Not only did guests give generously to the Del Duca and Wells Fargo scholarship funds, but some of the giveaway winners even gave back their prizes. Cathy Hoben (right) confirms her Bashas' shopping spree prize with co-emcee Beth McDonald of KEZ FM. Hoben later gave back a \$100 Bashas' certificate to be used by each of the Faces of Success honorees.

SAVE THE DATE AND HELP AWEE.  
COCKTAILS & CLOTHES Coming in April  
6th Annual AZCREW GOLF CLASSIC May 1, 2007  
CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD at the PHOENIX SYMPHONY May 4, 2007  
GO TO AWEE.ORG FOR DETAILS.

Arizona Women's Education & Employment, Inc.  
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# 2006 FACES OF SUCCESS



AWEE Faces of Success Honorees from left are Patricia, Margarita, Peggy and Jason.

## Four AWEE participants honored as the 2006 Faces of Success beam with excitement!

There were tears of joy, hugs, and still months after the lunch, people are sharing how they were touched by their stories. The journeys and achievements of many of AWEE's participants were highlighted at the annual luncheon. Many battled seemingly insurmountable hurdles, but with the help of AWEE and a strong circle of friends and family, they each transformed their lives.

### Peggy

As an AWEE participant from long ago, Peggy shared with the luncheon crowd a bit of her story.

*Flashback 12 years. I was high on meth, no education, no job, trying to be a mom to my little girl Teddi. Why meth? Because I experienced two tragic deaths in my life while I was pregnant and people told me to stuff my grief so the baby wouldn't feel it. I later had to deal with the pain of the losses and I just got high to escape it. But what doesn't kill us makes us stronger.*

With AWEE's help and support, Peggy completed a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master's in organizational management, and is now a licensed independent Substance Abuse Counselor and Quality Management Director for a non-profit outpatient facility.

*In the last 11 years, I have accomplished more than I had the previous 32 years of my life. Thank you AWEE, for helping this mom find a dream and then achieve it.*

### Margarita

*Getting arrested was probably the best thing that could have happened to me. There I was, in the county jail going cold turkey off meth. Despite the body aches, not eating, not sleeping...I thought of my kids. I thought of my mom who had to become a mom all over again taking care of my kids. What the heck was I doing to my family? I've realized I hooked up with the wrong man and made some other bad choices - I had never even had a parking ticket and the next thing I know I'm spending 18 months in prison. While in, I went to school to get my GED and worked manual labor learning a few things. Some of the most amazing moments were talking to mothers and daughters living in the same jail cell. I met grandmothers too. I knew this was not the life for me.*

*Then my mom told me about AWEE. She got help from this group 17 years ago. Now here I am. They've taught me there is always a way.*

*"Margarita is determined to do everything in her power to better her life so that she doesn't become another statistic and return to prison," said her AWEE Career Development Specialist.*

## More highlights from the 2006 Faces of Success Luncheon

There was singing, business women racing through a packed ballroom to win US Airways tickets, guests enjoying a Nea-politano dessert in honor of the Governor, folks showing off voter registration cards, and Beth & Bill from KEZ entertaining the audience - all in a typical day at the annual AWEE Faces of Success luncheon.

**Thanks to Wells Fargo and many other supporters** - the hundreds of businesswomen and community leaders who spent time focusing on workforce development and helping people change their lives through quality, career programs and training.

**Dave Howell with Wells Fargo kicked in extra scholarship dollars** after hearing the stories of a few Faces of Success honorees who wowed the crowd at the start of the event. Others in the audience matched his pledge.

And businesswoman **Pam Del Duca kicked off the new Del Duca Scholars program** that will support the education of an AWEE participant all the way through a degree. Pam movingly introduced the first recipient of her scholarship, Biviana Rodriquez, who escaped an abusive life, worked hard to support her children and is now pursuing

a B.A. in social work at Phoenix College to help lift others up. Pam also called on the audience to join her effort in sustaining the scholarship fund to help others like Biviana realize their dreams. Several thousand dollars were pitched in by guests to help in this effort. At the 2006 Faces of Success Luncheon, **lives were changed right on the spot!**



### Jason

Unemployed and sleeping on his mother's couch, Jason wanted to break free from the low-paying jobs that had plagued his life. He moved to Arizona and came to AWEE in 2005 seeking career advancement.

*From north Scottsdale, in the middle of summer, I walked two miles to get to a bus stop, then took the bus an hour and a half to get to AWEE and to school. Then I did it all over again in reverse - for a year. I took every class I could at AWEE. AWEE helped me realize that I liked radiology. Now I'm a technician, making decent money, and I just passed my exam to become an x-ray technician. I've gone from making \$6 an hour to tripling my salary.*

*I had never seen any programs like AWEE before. They helped open my eyes to all kinds of possibilities and helped me get through school.*

He's feeling so good about his future that he purchased his first new car and plans on attending GateWay Community College to pursue his Radiology degree.

### Patricia

Newly separated from her husband, Patricia was in dire financial straits. She didn't realize how bad it was until her 12-year-old son offered to drop out of school to help pay the bills. In 2005, Patricia was referred to AWEE by Job Services. Through AWEE's career advising and exploration courses, she discovered an interest in welding. Patricia entered a welding training program through the Maricopa Skills Center and did so well that she was hired by Schuff Steel before she graduated.

Patricia has remained in school knowing that her wages will rise once she graduates. As for her son, he's 13, still in school and loves the fact that his mom can now buy him things in support of his hobbies.

*There is a light at the end of the tunnel. I'm happier than ever before. I'm a Navajo...and in my tribe we say:*

**Walk on a rainbow trail;  
walk on a trail of song,  
and all about you will be beauty.  
There is a way out of every dark mist,  
over a rainbow trail.**

*Thanks for showing me the trail...*

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