

TOGETHER *We* ACHIEVE MORE

2024 NWIIWA FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Power & Confidence

Sometimes, during our events, I like to look through the crowd and imagine which one of our members might one day rise to the top of her industry because of things she learned through NWIIWA. It's fun to think about. With input from all of our partnering companies, we're creating entirely new futures together. Bright futures.



The recent Breakfast & Learn event featuring Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and Dr. Danita Johnson was a fantastic example of an event that could change a person's career trajectory. The topic was all about leading with power and confidence, and our two speakers were exemplary in that regard.

Inspiring moments like these can catalyze careers, and I'm very proud to say it's something NWIIWA does best. But it would never be possible without all of the outstanding participation and involvement of our partners and members. When we come together, we make our region stronger. No question.

2024 is going to be a big year for our association's programming, and we're so excited to continue collaborating with all of you! Thank you for enabling all of these achievements.

Mary Wright | Executive Committee Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS



Designer Purse & Sunglass Bingo - Let's Have Some Fun!

One of NWIIWA's most fun events of the year is just around the corner. Don't miss out on the Designer Purse & Sunglass Bingo Fundraiser, where attendees will have the chance to win designer and name-brand items while also sharing in fun networking opportunities.

In addition to the games - of which there are several - the Designer Purse & Sunglass Bingo event will feature a light dinner, a cash bar, and opportunities to meet other professionals and company representatives. Guests are welcome to come early, meet other attendees, and scope out their favorite bags and sunglasses. The Designer Purse & Sunglass Bingo event will be held on Wednesday, March 6th, at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church & Pavilion in Merrillville, IN.

[Click Here to Register & Purchase Tickets!](#)



MEETINGS

Education & Events Committee Meeting
February 26 | NWIIWA Office | Crown Point, IN

Education & Events Committee Meeting
March 25 | NWIIWA Office | Crown Point, IN

Education & Events Committee Meeting
April 22 | NWIIWA Office | Crown Point, IN

Executive Board Meeting
May 17 | NWIIWA Office | Crown Point, IN

Education & Events Committee Meeting
May 27 | NWIIWA Office | Crown Point, IN

[Click Here to See a Full List of Upcoming Events](#)

BUSINESS BUZZ

\$30M Gift, Largest Ever Received by Franciscan Health Foundation

Franciscan Health Foundation Chairwoman Sister Jane Marie Klein announced the largest ever gift received by the organization, a \$30 million donation from The Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation. The donation will pave the way for the creation of The Dean and Barbara White Cancer Center at the new Franciscan Health Crown Point hospital.

The 71,000-square-foot, three-story cancer center will be constructed at the southeast corner of Interstate 65 and U.S. 231 on the new hospital campus. This state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment center will consolidate existing cancer care services into one convenient location. The new cancer center is scheduled to open in early 2026.

NiSource Charitable Foundation Donates \$100K to Work One, United Way

The NiSource Charitable Foundation and NIPSCO will collaborate with WorkOne and United Way Northwest Indiana with a generous \$100,000 impact investment in the United Way's Mobile Services Unit. The funding will support Level Up participants, community development, job creation, and sustainability.

The Mobile Services Unit will allow the United Way to support Level Up clients around the five-county service area. By the end of 2025, the Level Up program will have at least 1,000 graduates, with each increasing their earning potential by an estimated \$20,000 a year.

\$3M Federal Grant for Children Exposed to Trauma

Purdue University Northwest's (PNW) department of Psychology was recently awarded a five-year, \$3 million grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to partner with pediatric healthcare clinics in Lake, Porter, and La Porte counties to support mental health services and interventions for child traumatic stress.

The project, Northwest Indiana Identification and Management of Pediatric Experiences of Trauma and Underlying Stress (NWI IMPETUS), was awarded as part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative to implement routine screenings and group interventions for child traumatic stress, as well as training large cohorts of local mental health providers.

Community Healthcare System Celebrating Nearly 200 Years Serving NWI

Community Healthcare System hospitals have had at least 195 reasons to celebrate this year. Community Hospital, St. Catherine Hospital, and St. Mary Medical Center hit major milestones in 2023 with a combined 195 years of service to communities throughout Northwest Indiana. In April, the latter two hospitals marked 95 and 50 years, respectively, and Community Hospital celebrated 50 years in September. Community Hospital in Munster, which opened its doors in September 1973, is Northwest Indiana's largest hospital with 454 beds.

MORE NEWS

Share Your News Through NWIIWA

If your company hasn't added submissions@nwiwa.org to your media list yet, you're missing out on great coverage opportunities. We are always absolutely proud to share good news about our members in our newsletters, social platforms, and more.

When you share your news with NWIIWA, it'll be seen by hundreds of business leaders throughout the Northwest Indiana community. It's one of the highest value media offerings you'll find, and it's at your disposal.

[Click Here to Submit Your News!](#)



COMMITTEE NEWS

Fresh Energy with New Executive Committee Elections

NWIIWA is excited to announce several recent elections to its Executive Committee, which administers many of the policies and activities of our association at the behest of the board of directors.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR Mary Wright | Horizon Bank
VICE CHAIR Aida Haigh | NiSource
SECRETARY Robert Joseph | ArcelorMittal R&D
TREASURER Erica Dombey | Regional Development Company
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Andrea Pearman | Diversified Marketing Strategies

Together, the new committee members are already hard at work building new pathways to advancement for women by fostering collaborations between companies and developing new educational and networking opportunities.

Welcome to Our Three New Board Members!

NWIIWA is upping its game! We're proud to announce the addition of three new members to our board of directors. Each new board member brings unique industry perspectives and experience, which will help us take our mission to advance opportunities for women even to the next level.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Delana Orban | Franciscan Health
Carrie Upchurch | Everwise Credit Union
Teri Wallace | Wallace Consulting

Each time that experts like these get more involved with NWIIWA, new pathways are discovered that enable us to expand our program offerings. We're proud to welcome our new board members and look forward to rolling up our sleeves and working together!

PARTNERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to Our Two New Partners!

We're very excited to announce that two of NWI's leading companies have recently chosen to partner with NWIIWA. The ArcelorMittal Global Research and Development Center has become an Elite Partner, and Wallace Consulting LLC is now a Core Partner.

ArcelorMittal Global R&D is an innovative division of the international steelmaker where new steel products, processes, and solutions are envisioned, tested, improved, and deployed.

Wallace Consulting is one of the top accounting firms in the region. The company provides focused, individualized attention to clients across a range of services, including taxation and future financial goals.

Together, NWIIWA and all of our incredible partners will be collaborating on ways to support the community and expand opportunities for women and companies throughout the region.

Welcome to Our New Partners

NEW ELITE PARTNER
ArcelorMittal Global R & D

NEW CORE PARTNER
Wallace Consulting, LLC

Welcome to Our New Members

NEW PREMIER CORPORATE MEMBERS
Public Service Adjusting, LLC
South Shore CVA
Wintrust Indiana

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Authentic Impact Business Coaching
Nelson's Catering

NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Kimberley Bradley
Jennifer Crunk
Kelly DeCamp
Anne Deedrick

Lisa Fronck
Kristina Fry
Erin Overly-Graham
Amy Ruffner

Mary Jo Smith
Misty Ursitt
Julie Wendorf



EDUCATION & NETWORKING

NWIIWA & NIPSCO Introduce Girls to Engineering

For young people, career exposure during school years is a critical factor that influences the decisions they'll be making about their futures. NIPSCO recently collaborated with NWIIWA to host a special "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" event for girls in second grade through sixth grade. During this unique program, about 70 girls had the opportunity to experience all of the positives the engineering field offers for women. The event was held at NIPSCO's Merrillville location and was organized by the NiSource employee resource group DAWN (Developing and Advancing Women at NiSource).



[Click Here to See More Pictures!](#)

Save the Date for the 2024 Professional Women's Conference

NWIIWA is extremely excited about our new event launching for the first time this year. The 2024 Professional Women's Conference will be taking place on November 13th at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City. Everything about this event will be designed to inspire, to motivate, and to enlighten all of our attendees. Save the date!

Additionally, NWIIWA is currently accepting applications for speakers who are interested in presenting about various empowerment, career development, and workforce topics.

Lt. Governor Crouch, Dr. Johnson Discuss Power and Confidence

NWIIWA was honored to host a special Breakfast & Learn event featuring Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and Author/CEO Dr. Danita Johnson. It was such an inspiring day! We learned a ton about how to become a powerful, confident leader.

Dr. Johnson discussed empowering concepts from her book, "The Unapologetic Woman: Leading with Power and Confidence," and Lt. Governor Crouch held a fireside chat with attendees.



[Click Here to See More Pictures!](#)

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

New Co-Chairs Appointed to Education & Networking Committee

Three new co-chairs have been appointed to lead NWIIWA's Education & Networking Committee. This group is responsible for coordinating many of the association's gatherings, learning opportunities, and events.

NEW COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Michelle Novak | TradeWinds Services, Inc.
Teri Wallace | Wallace Consulting

If you'd like to get more involved with our association, joining this committee will connect you to all the best things that NWIIWA has to offer.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

OUR PARTNERS

