

Newsletter

October 2017

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EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN FINANCE

President's Message

Angela Wessler, 2017 Executive Women in Finance President



A Look Back at Our First Two Years
It's time to celebrate the second anniversary of Executive Women in Finance! It is hard to believe, but two entire years have passed since EWF was launched in November 2015. The commitment and contributions to this organization by our board, our committees and subcommittees, our Executive Director and our members have continued to be extraordinary. EWF has grown tremendously since its launch, and we have been working hard to ensure that this momentum continues, and 2018 promises to be another exciting year filled with opportunities for you to get the most value out of your membership.

As we look forward to next year, our EWF membership base is now comprised of an even wider range of female professionals with significant experience in the financial industry, including chief financial officers, treasurers, commercial bankers, public finance professionals, and attorneys, representing a mix of national, regional and local business organizations. We are striving to continue building upon this diverse membership base, and I am eager to

see EWF capitalize on the success of the last two years and continue to grow and evolve.

EWF Events

We kicked off the third quarter of this year with a luncheon featuring a discussion with Dr. Sue Ellspermann, the President of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Dr. Ellspermann shared lessons learned from her amazing and inspiring path throughout the course of her career.

In September, we enjoyed our second annual members' only end of summer social event. We had a great turnout for this event, and received exciting feedback that everyone enjoyed the dine-around structure of the luncheon with the opportunity to meet and network among our diverse group of members.

Our final quarterly luncheon of the year featured a discussion with Dr. Arin Reeves, a national consultant, speaker and best-selling author of two

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Continued on page 2...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to our newest members!
We are glad to have you!

Brittany Benson

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President's Message Continued

books – “The Next IQ” and “One Size Never Fits All.” Dr. Reeves led an informative discussion about how women can make themselves heard and issues surrounding women’s retention, advancement and leadership in the workplace.

We have a number of exciting opportunities and events already scheduled for 2018. Our first quarterly luncheon will be held in February with a speaker from the local Indy Tech scene that you won’t want to miss. You will also want to register for our member and prospective member New Year’s celebration scheduled for January 9, 2018. Events in April will include Katie Culp, Angie Carr Klitzch, and Sarah Riordan, and in June we will focus on persuasively speaking whether it is a one-on-one conversation or when presenting in front of a group.

EWF Committees

If you are a member of EWF and you are not involved with the board or with a committee or subcommittee, I strongly encourage you to participate. Participating on one of our EWF committees or subcommittees is the best way to get to know other EWF members and fully benefit from your membership, both professionally and personally. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact Joelle Compton. You can also contact the Committee Chairs and explore opportunities with their respective committees (for a full list of committees and subcommittees, please visit the EWF website at www.ewfindiana.org).

I am honored to be your 2017 President, and I eagerly await all of the great programming lined up for 2018. It is my sincere hope that EWF will continue to grow and serve as a forum for networking, professional development and education for women in the financial sector in central Indiana.

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Our Central Indiana partnerships include support for Junior Achievement, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Wheeler Mission and The Salvation Army, among many other advocacy cause-based organizations. Huntington's philanthropic efforts focus on financial literacy, affordable housing and home ownership, and critical needs within our communities.



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GOLD



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Women Attorneys in Finance: Paving the Way to Successful Business Opportunities



Barnes & Thornburg's lawyers help business owners and investors achieve their dreams. We provide practical guidance to business managers as they navigate the challenges of legal compliance and balance the risks inherent in financing various aspects of business transactions.

The lawyers in each of our 13 offices handle sophisticated transactions and business issues across the country, delivering the services that clients need with a value-driven approach. Learn a bit more from and about three of our women partners who work with clients in the financial services field.

Kimberly W. Blanchet

Kimberly W. Blanchet is a partner in Barnes & Thornburg's Indianapolis office, where she concentrates her practice in the area of finance, both taxable financing and tax-exempt financings for municipalities, hospitals, retirement communities and nonprofits such as colleges and universities. Kim has worked on a variety of financings involving counties, towns, regional water and sewer districts, conservancy districts, hospitals, universities, colleges and school corporations. In addition to acting as bond counsel, she has participated in public finance transactions in other capacities, including as underwriter's counsel, issuer's counsel and bank counsel.



"I truly enjoy meeting and working with new and existing clients. It is enjoyable to interact with clients."

Anne DePrez

Anne DePrez is a member of the Litigation and Corporate departments, co-chair of the firm's Financial and Regulatory Litigation Practice Group, and a member of the White Collar and Investigations and Compliance practice groups. She concentrates her litigation practice in the areas of securities and business litigation. Anne, who is a partner in the Indianapolis office, represents issuers, directors, underwriters, broker-dealers and others in securities fraud class actions, securities enforcement actions, and customer disputes. In her business litigation practice, she focuses on corporate governance issues such as shareholder disputes, director litigation, and derivative actions. She also works with clients to avoid litigation in the first place, advising corporations, their boards and special committees on corporate governance and compliance issues, in addition to representing them in connection with both internal and government investigations.



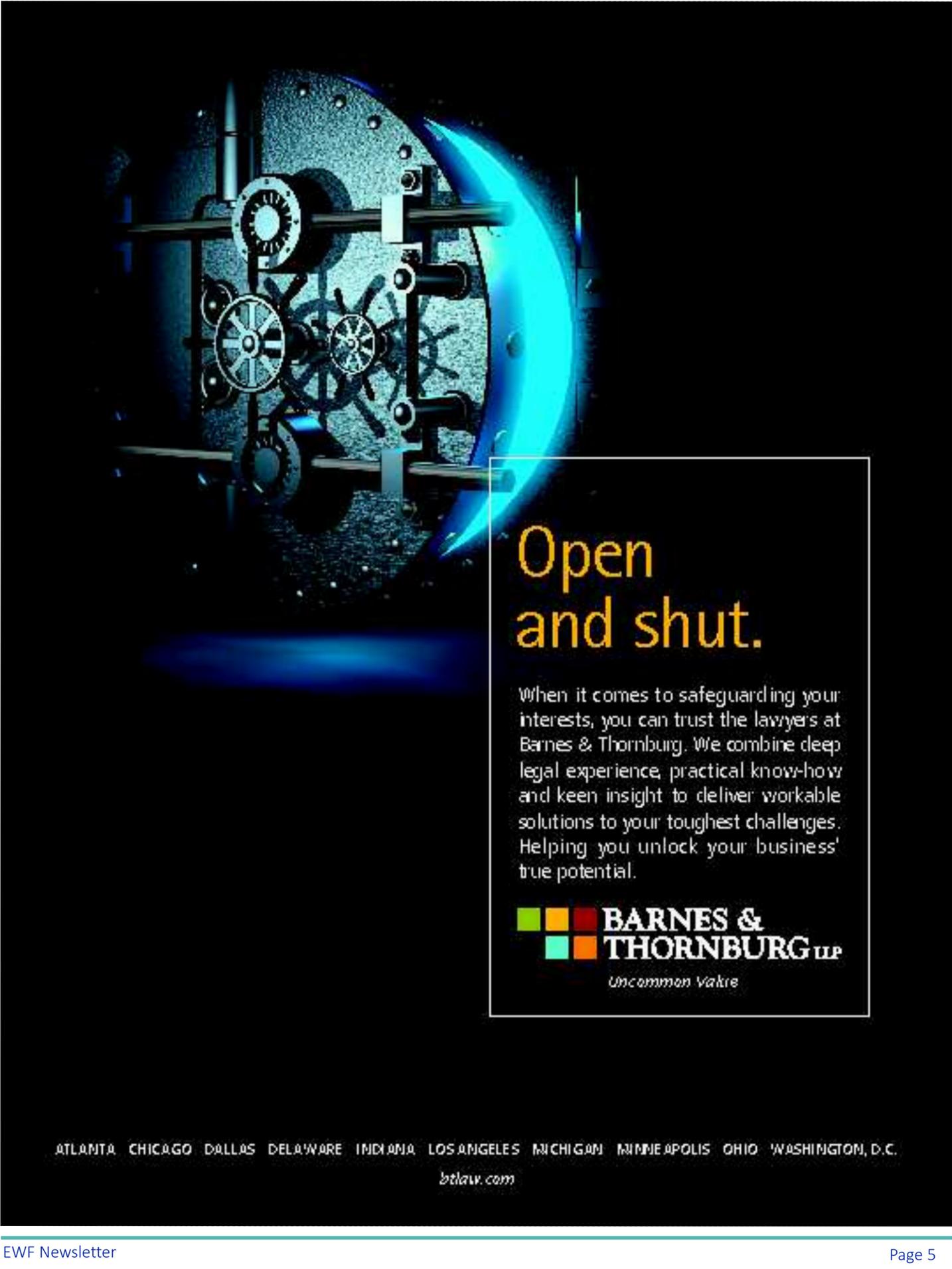
"I love working with clients in the finance area because finance is all about creating things – whether it is funding a new school, a business, a home or a road. I enjoy helping to ensure that the creation of those entities and opportunities are not derailed by regulatory inquiries or litigation."

Angela K. Wessler

Angela K. Wessler is a member of Barnes & Thornburg's Corporate Department, where she focuses on commercial lending, corporate finance and creditors' rights. Angela's practice includes a broad range of financial, commercial and creditors' rights issues, including representation of commercial lenders and borrowers in connection with syndicated lending transactions, private equity financing transactions, secured transactions, and agribusiness lending transactions. She also advises on ESOP lending transactions, real estate lending transactions, taxable and tax-exempt bond financings, private placement financings, asset-based financings, workouts and loan restructurings. Clients also turn to Angela, a partner in the Indianapolis office, for general representation of secured creditors and on Uniform Commercial Code issues. Angela has extensive experience in documenting high-stakes transactions and/or challenging collateral issues for clients.



"Working together with the parties to a financing transaction to resolve all issues and reach the ultimate goal of closing the deal is what energizes and motivates me. Being able to zealously represent a client while working toward completing a transaction is very rewarding."



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Ice Miller Spotlights Attorney Financial Services and Community Leaders

At Ice Miller, our female attorneys know the business and law of banking. Ice Miller has female attorneys in numerous offices who represent our clients in secured and unsecured debt transactions, including construction loans, revolving and term loans, asset based loans, bridge equity loans, syndicated loans, bond financings, convertible loans, real estate loans, mezzanine and unitranche financings, letters of credit, interest rate swaps, sale/leasebacks, and tax exempt financings.. In addition to advocating for our clients, Ice Miller has a long history and tradition of developing female leaders within both the Firm and the community. A brief spotlight of our female attorneys demonstrates our experience in financial services and commitment to female leadership within our communities.



Kristina Tridico, Partner, Indianapolis

Kristina's practice focuses primarily on corporate and business matters, with a particular emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and commercial arrangements. Community passion: The Julian Center, empowering survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other life crises, Board Member, Governance Committee Chair

Elizabeth Brier, Associate, Indianapolis

Elizabeth concentrates her practice on transactional matters, with a focus on debt finance and private equity transactions, while also advising clients on a range of general corporate matters. Community passion: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, FORTE Young Professionals Group, Leadership Committee Member

Joanne Goldhand, Partner, Columbus

Joanne has practiced transactional real estate law since 1988 on behalf of lenders, borrowers, developers, tenants, homeowners, government, landlords and others with or desiring land. Community passion: United Way of Central Ohio, Home Impact Committee; North Market Development Association, Executive Board Member; Columbus Children's Theatre, Board of Trustees

Nancy Valentine, Partner, Cleveland

Nancy has a diverse litigation and transactional practice serving Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, privately held companies and individuals. Community passion: St. Francis Xavier School - Homeroom parent and volunteer

Laurie Miller, Partner, DuPage County, Illinois

Laurie focuses her practice in corporate law, with experience in negotiating, managing and completing complex financing transactions and business transactions. Community passion: Pass-it-On (a charity providing travel soccer scholarships to qualifying families); Team administrator for her daughter's national travel soccer team

Michelle Zaretsky, Associate, New York

Michelle concentrates her practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions and general corporate matters. Community passion: Benefactor and rescue dog rehabilitator for various NY/NJ animal rescue organizations; New York Bar Association Member



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Ice on Fire

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A Modern Workforce is Key to Indianapolis' Economic Future

Promoting economic vitality is one of our top priorities at JPMorgan Chase. However, every day we hear from our business clients – firms of all sizes, in every sector of the economy across the globe – about the challenges they face finding workers with the right skills.



The economic opportunities for many whose skills are no longer suitable for the new positions brought on by innovation and technology have been shrinking. For many cities, helping employees move up the skills ladder is more constructive than trying to bring back the low-skill jobs.

Through New Skills at Work, JPMorgan Chase's \$250 million global initiative, we are helping cities, states, community organizations and schools to address these needs by leveraging our resources, and expertise to help inform and accelerate local efforts to implement demand-driven skills training.

In Central Indiana, we've invested in Ivy Tech's Accelerated Adult Learning program that offers in-demand training programs for adults providing specific industry credentials along with academic advising and financial counseling. At the Chase Legacy Center on the Near Eastside, we support workforce development programs focused on manufacturing and information technology credentials.

While training and retraining established workers is important to our ability to grow today, one of the most critical issues facing our future is the number of young people who graduate from high school without the necessary skills to compete. Providing opportunities for students to participate in high-quality career readiness programs is critical to the future of our communities, businesses and our country.

JPMorgan Chase has been focusing on this issue in Indianapolis for several years and fund great partners that are making strides in this area:

- IUPUI's Informatics' Diversity-Enhanced Workforce Initiative offers informatics training and career readiness in IT for students at three Indianapolis high schools.
- Indiana Black Expo's Action Plan for African American Youth provides workforce preparation and career guidance.
- TeenWorks delivers meaningful work experiences for 350 youth by having them explore careers in IT, advanced manufacturing, logistics and construction.

Helping people – teens to adults to boomers reinvent themselves -- develop the skills they need to compete for today's jobs transforms lives, stabilizes communities, strengthens businesses and grows economies.

Mandy Parris
Executive Director
JPMorgan Chase

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Darlisa E. Davis

Company, Position and brief job description:

First Merchants Bank, Vice President, Private Banking



What was the experience or motivating factor that compelled you to join Executive Women in Finance (EWF)? Was there someone who influenced you to join?

I was interested the first moment I heard that Angela Wessler was interested in starting this group. I have a passion for connecting women to expand their resources and network. This group not only connects women of like minds, but also provides great presenters with useful and inspiring information/stories.

What do you think makes a good mentor and have you established any mentoring relationships through EWF?

A good mentor is willing to teach what she knows and accept the mentee where they currently are in their professional development. The mentor should understand that mentoring requires time and commitment and is willing to continually share information and provide ongoing support with the mentee.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy hiking at various parks on the weekends.

What 3 business tips can you share with others?

- Trust your instincts and take the risk.
- Do not be afraid of failure, it is how we learn and gives us the courage to try new things.
- Always be authentic

What is your guilty pleasure (TV show, sweet treat, etc.)?

My guilty pleasure would be watching black and white movies on a rainy afternoon.

What are you passionate about?

People. I absolutely love learning about people, their experiences and adventures.

What is your favorite quote and why?

“He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.”—Chinese Proverb. A customer once told me that I asked too many questions... he then said that he preferred his bankers dumb.





We're invested in your success.

We are proud to support Executive Women in Finance in Central Indiana. Thank you for the important work that you do to establish a diverse network for women to achieve professional growth and success within the financial business community.

CHASE 

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Why Women Leaders Need to Help Develop the Younger Generation

Marybeth Howe, *Great Lakes Division Manager for Wells Fargo Middle Market Banking*



Millennials have been a hot topic of discussion, and it's easy to see why. Recent data shows that by 2020, millennials will represent nearly 50 percent of the workforce. Women have historically had a keen ability to engender trust and build relationships, two important qualities in a financial service professional. Moreover, there is a clear correlation between more women in leadership positions and the improved performance of companies they lead. So the imperative is clear, let's get these young women ready to assume increasing levels of responsibility.



The importance of how women leaders can help develop younger generations of future leaders came to me in my role as part of Wells Fargo Women's Leadership Group. In the Great Lakes, I work with a team of diverse financial professionals, and mentor high potential women. As I began working with millennials, and from what I had read, the implication is that millennials feel entitled, their work ethic is not great and they need lots of flexibility. However, as I started working with young women, I immediately learned that these millennials are fantastic. In fact, they all work incredibly hard, set aggressive career goals and they value opportunities for advancement.

Much of my mentoring involves compensation discussions. Make no mistake: millennials expect to be paid for their good work. Consequently, companies that are progressive in providing promotions and pay increases will fare much better in retaining talent. As leaders, we must speak up and advocate for the development and advancement of these women or we risk losing them.

Finding and retaining talent is a crucial priority for most companies. Businesses of all sizes and across industries struggle with finding the right people. Leaders have to create a culture appealing to millennials beyond casual days, free food, or nap rooms. They want flexibility, opportunity, meaning, positive impact, and good pay. This list is in order of priority. In fact, more than half of the millennials will take a cut in pay to work somewhere where they find meaning and opportunity.

A recent study by PwC found that 66 percent of millennials want flexible hours. This supports millennials work/life balance priority. Even though many wait to have children until their mid-thirties, they still enjoy the flexibility of working from home at times, flexible hours, and empowerment to make decisions without fear of repercussion.

Millennial women also value consistent and thoughtful feedback. As a mentor, my mentees often ask my opinion on how a certain issue or situation was handled. The more candid the feedback I give, the better. For this type of interaction, they prefer face-to-face meetings instead of email or phone calls. Lastly, behind lack of career progression, millennial women leave jobs because they don't find their work interesting or meaningful. Leaders have to be aware of the level of engagement our future leaders feel. Annual surveys on empowerment and engagement, as we do at Wells Fargo, are a great way to find out how connected and engaged employees feel.

Millennials are team players, diverse, optimistic, active in their communities and socially conscious. Leaders must facilitate opportunities for them to thrive and find meaning in what they do. If we do that, we will have their loyalty.

Marybeth Howe is Great Lakes division manager for Wells Fargo Middle Market Banking in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Email her at marybeth.howe@wellsfargo.com. The views expressed present the opinions of the author on prospective trends and related matters in middle market banking trends as of this date, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Wells Fargo & Co., its affiliates and subsidiaries.

EVENT RECAPS

June 2017 Luncheon:

On June 22, 2017 members and guests gathered at the Ivy Tech Culinary Conference Center in Indianapolis for a luncheon featuring Dr. Sue Ellspermann, President of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Dr. Ellspermann has more than 30 years of experience in higher education, economic and workforce development, and public service.

Dr. Ellspermann has an impressive resume that includes serving as the first women President of the largest accredited community college in the nation, serving as Indian's 50th Lieutenant Governor, serving as President of the Indiana Senate and Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, serving as an Indiana State Representative for District 74, and extensive experience in educational and workforce development. She shared how she believed she was able to achieve her success thanks to the experiences she had working in her parents jewelry store in Ferdinand, Indiana as a teen.



Dr. Ellspermann has always had a love of learning and never was afraid to take on a challenge. That includes earning a BS degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University when very few women were in the program, traveling three hours per day round trip to the University of Louisville from her home in Southern Indiana to earn a MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering when her children were young, starting the Center for Applied Research at the University of Evansville, stepping up to run for State Representative against a longtime incumbent in District 74 and running an high integrity race, or working to address the challenges in education to meet the demands of a changing workforce. Dr. Ellspermann said she believes many women feel they have to be well qualified before they pursue something new in their career – she has always been willing to try something new and draw upon her prior experiences to get her through the adventure and is an advocate of doing things your own way.

Today Dr. Ellspermann is facing her toughest challenge to date in turning around the community college system to educate workers that can fill open jobs in Indiana. She is drawing upon her 30 plus years of experience in education, politics, and workforce development to Make Rural Cool Again!

September 2017 Luncheon:

Our second End of Summer Social was another smashing success! The event took place on September 12 at Ruth's Chris Ironworks. The social provided each member in attendance the chance to meet with two different tables of women over the course of lunch. The discussions at each table fostered relationship building, learning from each other, and brainstorming about ways to continuing improving EWF. The ideas generated by the collective group were outstanding and will be used to help chart the course for EWF in 2018 and beyond. Several members again highlighted this luncheon as their favorite event of the year!

October 2017 Luncheon:

The October luncheon was hosted at Ruth's Chris downtown and featured Dr. Arin N. Reeves. Arin has written the books One Size Never Fits All and The Next IQ. She is the President of Nextions, an advisory firm that focuses on research relating to leadership, inclusion, and gender equality. Most of her discussion was centered around the topics in One Size Never Fits All and all attendees were able to take home a copy of the book.

Arin started her discussion off by explaining why one size never fits all. It just wouldn't work if all racers were required to wear the same size shoe. Only those who really fit that size would succeed, even if they were not the best runners. The best runners might give up, despite their skill, due to realizing they just couldn't run with improperly fitted shoes. Arin tied this into the business world. It is not a one size fits all system. Many women may have the talent and ability to go farther, but they are given the one size shoe that doesn't fit them.

Continued on page 13...

EVENT RECAPS

October Luncheon Continued

Arin then talked about studies involving differences in competition between men and women. Men thrive on one on one competition. Women on the other hand, prefer to work as a team. Women tend to be driven more on a unified goal and working together. They are less likely to have that drive when competing against each other. Men find it much easier to self-promote themselves. Women, on the other hand, find it much more uncomfortable. Women would much rather promote each other. She also discussed how women may find it easier to self-promote if they use questions. For example, rather than coming out and saying you have won an award or received a new certification, you can ask someone how they think that may benefit the organization, or their thoughts on how it can be used as a marketing tool. This indirectly notifies others of new accomplishments and the desire to use them to benefit the organization, not just oneself.

To wrap up her discussion, Arin tied all the topics she had mentioned into suggestions for all woman to use to help get out of the one size fits all mold. Because women are less comfortable self-promoting, they should find peers who will help promote them. This way, women help promote each other. If you are required to write a self-evaluation at year end, have another woman write it for you. Support and help push each other. Arin also encouraged all of us to develop our own support group of mentors that we can rely on and help us develop new skills. At the end, Arin had everyone pick something they wanted to take home from today and work on, and share that goal with one other person in the room—so both would be held accountable.

Special thank you to BMO Harris Bank for sponsoring this event and for the books given to each attendee!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Hour

Thursday, November 16, 2017

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Hoitea Toitea - Broad Ripple

Join us for tea (and beer) for happy hour with your EWF friends. This is a pay on your own event.



Member and Potential Member New Year Celebration

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

4:00 - 6:00 PM

The Woodstock Club

Bring a potential member to learn more about Executive Women in Finance!



February Luncheon

Date TBD

11:15AM – 1:00 PM

Location TBD

April Luncheon

Thursday, April 19, 2018

11:15AM – 1:00 PM

Location TBD

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The women of Wells Fargo Advisors would like to congratulate the Executive Women in Finance for a successful second year!

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The SKY Is the Limit: BKD's Gender Diversity Initiative

BKD implemented SKY—a firmwide initiative to emphasize and strengthen diversity throughout our firm. The goal of SKY is to identify and remove cultural barriers and biases that prevent BKDers from maximizing their potential, regardless of gender. It's intended to raise awareness and create a level playing field for all firm personnel, while helping to attract and retain talent-led leaders.

"SKY is only as successful as we allow it to be, and we impressed on leadership the importance of our diversity initiative," says Managing Partner Wendy Henry, who chairs the SKY Advisory Council. "SKY has already been a catalyst for change in different parts of the firm. A great example is how SKY acted as a sounding board for Human Resources as the department developed Growing Together—our new parental leave program that offers paid time off for primary and secondary caregivers."

Our Sponsor-Protégé Program is a great example of BKD's efforts to both showcase our female role models and develop our next generation of firm leaders. Each year, we select a protégé class and pair them with sponsor partners. Now in its third year, this program continues to benefit our protégés by establishing deeper professional relationships and advancing specific career goals.

As BKD seeks to more aggressively grow its national presence, strengthen its international platform, cultivate its talent and mold its people into trusted advisors for their clients, the firm must take the necessary steps to build out a diverse and dynamic employee base. SKY and other efforts to strengthen and diversify our leadership are critical to BKD's long-term success.

BKD, LLP, a national CPA and advisory firm, employs approximately 2,600 dedicated professionals who provide solutions for clients in all 50 states and internationally. BKD and its subsidiaries offer a variety of tax, accounting and consulting services and combine the insight and ideas of thought leaders in multiple industries. Learn more at bkd.com.



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Save or Spend?



Dick Greco, Managing Partner – Senior Financial Advisor at Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC, says when it comes to spending splurges, critical thinking and introspection are in order, not only about the financial impact of the splurge, but also about the deeper, emotional meaning. That’s because while he generally thinks spending splurges aren’t truly “worth it” from a financial standpoint, he just fulfilled a dream he and his father shared — owning a boat. He says, “When I talk to clients, I ask them, ‘What are your dreams? What have you always wanted to do?’ I don’t criticize people for what they want to do. I try to figure out a way to show them how they can do it.”

Lee Shapiro, a licensed clinical psychologist and professor at Santa Clara University, says he understands where Greco’s thoughts originate. “If the splurge is in line with your values, it probably is of great benefit,” he says.

Making the case for spending

Common advice from financial planners typically is to save, invest, and limit spending on nonessential items. But some financial planners and psychologists believe while that advice makes sense in most situations, there are merits in the occasional expensive purchase – even though those benefits likely are not financial and may be difficult to quantify.

There’s abundant research showing when discretionary income is used for experiences rather than things, people are much more satisfied. Shapiro gives a personal example: trips to New Zealand and Alaska he took with his family that his two children, now grown, still reminisce about 15 years later. The experience tends to be more precious if these types of trips aren’t common experiences, he adds.

But not every expert shares this opinion. Kit Yarrow, Professor Emerita of psychology and marketing at Golden Gate University and author of *Decoding the New Consumer Mind: How and Why We Shop and Buy*, says an elaborate vacation may not be the best splurge, since a vacation doesn’t need to be expensive for it to be worthwhile and create memories. She says there’s often so much pressure to have fun when everyone knows how much you’ve spent on a trip that it makes it difficult for the experience to live up to the hype. “Great vacations are about the people you’re with, not the money you’ve spent,” she says.

Virginia Merkel, CFP®, ADPA®, RICP®
Managing Director - Investments

Maureen Damer, CRPC®, ADPA®, RICP®
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Helping women in business succeed financially

Wells Fargo has long worked to enable women in business. In fact, since 1995, Wells Fargo has loaned over \$55.8 billion to women business owners.

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Strong Legislative Session for Economic Development

By Erin Eberly, Partner, Katz, Sapper & Miller, and Tim Cook, President, KSM Location Advisors



James Carville famously advised during the 1992 presidential election: “It’s the economy, stupid.” This adage proves to be sound political advice 25 years later, as the state budget approved in the closing wee hours of the 2017 General Assembly had a decidedly economic bent to it.

Addressing everything from more direct flights to increased funding for emerging technologies, legislators gave businesses plenty to be happy about in 2017. Highlights from the state budget and other pieces of economic-minded legislation expected to be signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb include:

Infrastructure

An increase in road funding was an absolute must this session. Indiana’s “Crossroads of America” title has been in serious jeopardy the past several years as money for road improvements has been slow to materialize. The 2017 General Assembly addressed this gap in a big way. Road-related taxes and increases in vehicle registration fees will provide an estimated \$1.2 billion for infrastructure through the middle of the next decade.

Workforce Development and Early Education

Holcomb and Speaker Brian Bosma stressed better coordination of workforce development efforts in the lead-up to this session. SB 198 addresses various technical and career education initiatives, including more robust collaboration between the Board of Education and Department of Workforce Development in the areas of information-sharing and course certifications.

Equally critical to workforce development is investment in early education, ensuring Indiana has a skilled workforce long-term. A pilot program currently in place to provide high-quality education to lower-income children will receive a boost of \$22 million in annual funding to expand coverage from five counties to 15.

Economic Development

The Legislature extended funding and eliminated sunsets for a variety of economic development programs. Additionally, it created a significant new influx of cash for Holcomb’s “Next Level” initiatives, including innovation and entrepreneurial investment for promising technologies and growing companies. Included in the mix is additional funding for regional economic development projects, a mini-sequel to Indiana’s popular Regional Cities Initiative. Also approved: \$20 million in funding to the Indiana Biosciences Research Institute.

While the fight to sell cold beer stole many of the headlines in the waning hours of this session, the many economic measures enacted this year will have the biggest impact in the years to come. This business-friendly legislative session will give participants in Indiana’s economy plenty to toast.



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