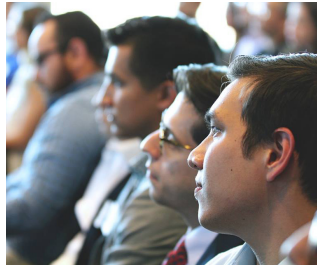
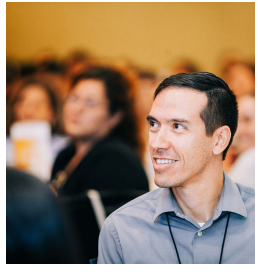
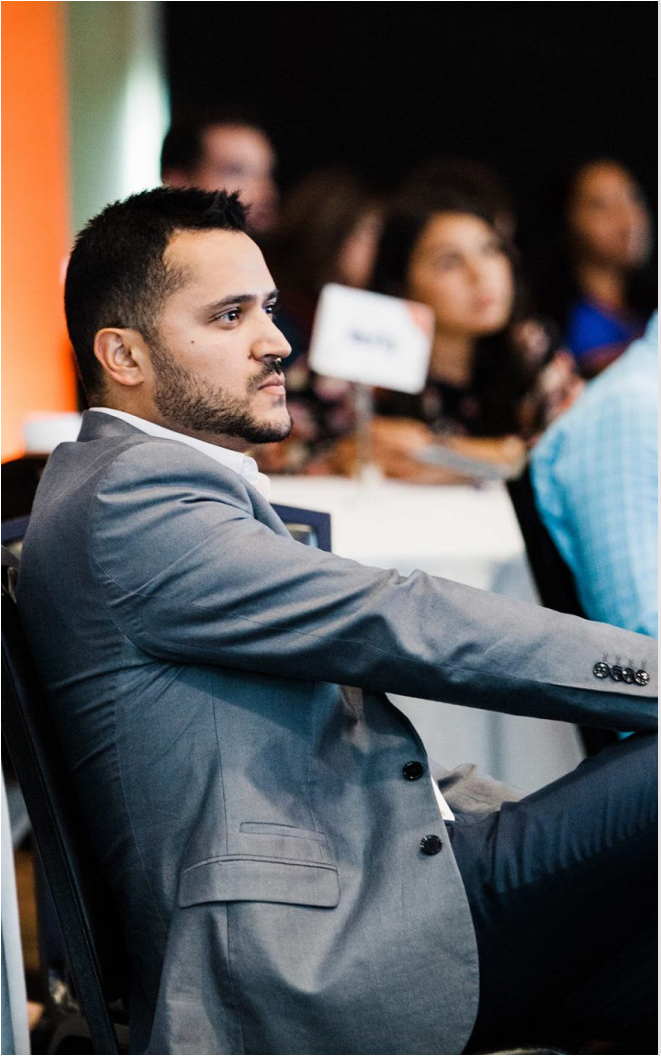
United Way
Young Leaders Society

A decade older.
A decade wiser.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



REFLECTION

Letter from Our President

The Young Leaders Society (YLS) was founded 10 years ago with the belief that our region's young professionals, with the support of the community, could rise to be the next generation of philanthropic and civic leaders. What began as a small group of individuals seeking personal and professional development, has become a strong donor network of 300 young professionals who are making their mark on our community.

Our membership is as diverse as our community. From students and recent graduates who are getting their footing in the workplace, to seasoned professionals who are taking their craft to the next level. We enjoy the participation of members from a variety of professions. From those climbing corporate ladders in national and local companies to those following their dreams as entrepreneurs with small and big ventures. YLS is helping current and future leaders take control of their destinies and more importantly, the El Paso community.

Together, we are individuals who are determined to build a stronger community, mold gratifying careers and improve the overall quality of life for every resident in the region. We are intentionally part of a group, that through the United Way of El Paso County, is afforded the ability to help children, families, and individuals access the resources and services they need to lead better lives.

On behalf of the YLS Advisory Board, we can't thank you enough for helping us build a future where our community's young professionals will prosper through leadership development, volunteerism and networking. The past 10 years have been a rewarding journey and we look forward to kicking off another decade in 2019.

Adrian Santiago
Young Leaders Society Advisory Board President

MEMBERS

Advisory Board

ADRIAN SANTIAGO

President
WestStar

CHRISTOPHER MONTOYA

Incoming President
Wells Fargo

RUBEN AHEDO

Immediate Past President
Federal Reserve Bank
Dallas Branch - El Paso

THOMAS GABRIEL

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

EMILIO HOLGUIN

The Surfing Penguin

MARITZA LOPEZ-HOLGUIN

University Medical
Center of El Paso/El
Paso Health

CHELSEA LYNCH

The Hospitals of
Providence - Sierra
Campus

BRENDAN MARCUM-CARTER

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

ANGELINA RODRIGUEZ

El Paso Electric

NICK SECKERSON

El Paso
Chihuahuas

CINDY SOSA

Community
Volunteer

DAVID VALENZUELA

Texas Gas

ALEX YU

TFCU

Our Mission

Inform, empower, and engage young professionals who are looking to take their careers and passions to the next level while serving the El Paso community.

WE BELIEVE

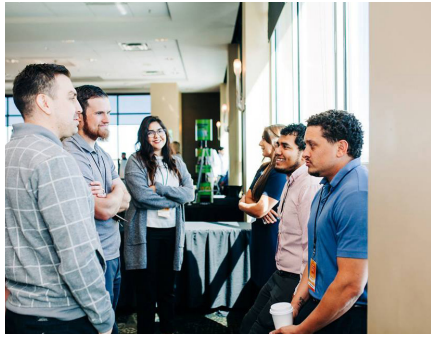
El Paso's young professionals are ready to claim their role as up-and-coming, civic and philanthropic leaders.

VALUES

Our Approach

LEAD

Informative and empowering trainings that engage El Paso's young professionals in leadership and board member development to help them become the next generation of philanthropic leaders.



NETWORK

Exclusive events and opportunities helping individuals make connections with peers and community leaders.

VOLUNTEER

Carefully selected and hands-on volunteer projects that align with United Way's mission of connecting individuals to programs and services they need to build better lives.

2018

Our Events

WINE & WISDOM

Our signature series, Wine & Wisdom, allows guests to participate in insightful conversations with the community's top leaders who share their experiences and bits of wisdom.

WINE & WISDOM PT3

Topic: Making the Leap: From Individual Contributor to Leader

Speaker: Dr. Roberto A. Coronado, Vice President in Charge and Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Date: April 3rd, 2018

Location: DoubleTree Downtown – Sky Lounge

The presentation titled "Making the Leap: From Individual Contributor to Leader" featured a discussion about shifting mindsets from the regular day-to-day responsibilities of an individual contributor to the broader view and priorities of a leader.

2018

Our Events

WINE & WISDOM CONTINUED

WINE & WISDOM PT4

Topic: Benefits of Connectivity & Being Community Minded

Speaker: Brad Taylor, MountainStar Group & Chihuahuas Vice President and General Manager

Date: July 18th, 2018

Location: El Paso Chihuahuas WestStar Bank Club

A discussion on economic development through the eyes of the baseball team and new community stadium. Mr. Taylor also talked about the spark that can be ignited within community-minded individuals.

2018

Our Events

WINE & WISDOM CONTINUED

WINE & WISDOM PT5

Topic: Defining Your Leadership

Speaker: Dr. Diana Natalicio, University of Texas at El Paso President

Date: September 12th, 2018

Location: UTEP Hoover House

The last Wine and Wisdom of the year featured Dr. Diana Natalicio, University of Texas at El Paso President. Dr. Natalicio, who was named one of the Fortune Magazine's Top 50 World Leaders in 2018 and included in the 2016 TIME 100 List of Most Influential People in the World, discussed the essential factors of leaving a lasting impact and defining one's leadership.

2018

Our Events

CONTINUED

REALIZE BOARD TRAINING

Speaker: Elke Cumming, Executive Director of the Paso del Norte Center of Hope

Date: May 1st, 2018

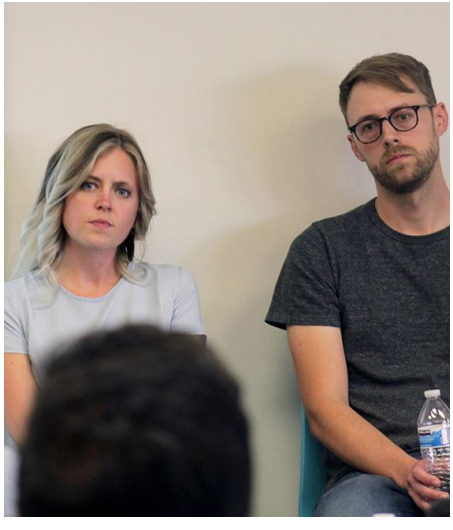
Location: Paso Del Norte Health Foundation

The event focused on the roles and responsibilities of board members. The event was in anticipation of the yearly recruiting phase that most of El Paso's nonprofits go through to nominate new members to their board of directors.

2018

Our Events

CONTINUED



ON THE MENU: KICKSTARTING A KICKSTARTER

Speaker: Tyler & Michelle Savage

Date: June 13th, 2018

Location: Stanton Tower

The On the Menu series began with Savage Goods duo Tyler and Michelle Savage, who led the second largest Kickstarter campaign in El Paso to open a brick and mortar bakery in Sunset Heights. They taught our members how to use Kickstarter, an online platform that offers a method of asking for public support. Tyler and Michelle Savage shared tips of running a successful business, entrepreneurship and more.

2018

Our Events

CONTINUED

ADVOCACY TRAINING

Speaker: Jason Sabo & Mandi Kimball

Date: August 28th, 2018

Location: Stanton Tower

Jason Sabo, founder of Frontera Strategy in Austin, Texas and Mandi Kimball, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs with Children at Risk in Houston, Texas talked about how the legislator works in El Paso, how our city can maximize political influence, and how you can take your interests to the next level by becoming an advocate.

2018

Our Events

CONTINUED

DOWNTOWN ART WALK

Speaker: Adair Margo

Date: October 10th, 2018

Location: El Paso Public Library Auditorium

Downtown Art Walk with Adair Margo was a joint event of the Young Leaders Society and RISE where our members enjoyed a leisurely walk and presentation through downtown and viewed some of our city's most historic pieces of art with the First Lady of El Paso, Adair Margo.

2018

Our Events

CONTINUED

HOLIDAY MIXER

Date: December 13th, 2018

Location: Tin Man Montecillo

The Young Leaders Society (YLS) and RISE came together to host one last event before the end of the year to celebrate the growth and development of each group.

OUR MAIN EVENT

ENGAGE Young Professionals Leadership Summit

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

ENGAGE is a half–day of insightful talks from some of the region's most seasoned leaders and up-and-coming thinkers and doers. This year, the summit was divided into four panels (The Social Innovators, The Collaborators, The Creative Class and The Visionaries) that were carefully curated to meet the interests of our region's young professionals. Speakers were primed to share real-world, practical knowledge that could transcend any sector. All our guests had the opportunity to make connections with incredibly passionate and driven young professionals during our breaks or at the end-of-day mixer.

OUR MAIN EVENT

ENGAGE Young Professionals Leadership Summit

SPEAKERS

THE COLLABORATORS PANEL

- Aimee Olivas – Business Retention & Expansion Specialist, City of El Paso
- Joe Gudenrath – Executive Director, El Paso Downtown Management District
- Chelsea Lamego – Director of Operations, Office of Asset Management at UTEP
- Omar Yanar – Founder and CEO, El Paso Leadership Academy

THE CREATIVE CLASS PANEL

- Bryan Crowe – General Manager, Destination El Paso
- Ben Fyffe – Assistant Director, City of El Paso Museum and Cultural Affairs Department
- Patrick McNeil – Executive Producer and Owner, Neon Desert Music Festival
- Marina Monsisvais – Founder & Owner, Barracuda PR

THE SOCIAL INNOVATORS PANEL

- Dr. Carlos Martinez-Vela – President and CEO, The Hub of Human Innovation
- Cathy Chen – Co-Founder and Director, Fab Lab El Paso
- Jonathan "J.J." Childress – Community Engagement Manager, Microsoft TechSpark – El Paso
- Dr. Ebuetal "Beto" Pallares – Managing Director and Co-Founder, Co-Work Oasis
- Brandon Silverstein – Partner and Senior Web Developer, Viva + Impulse Creative Co.

THE VISIONARIES PANEL

- Laurie Banitch – Director of Corporate Outreach, UTEP
- Rida Asfahani, AIA, LEED AP – Owner, Root Architects
- Laura Rodriguez – Principal and Founder, The Raben Group
- Ruben Vogt – El Paso County Judge

OUR MAIN EVENT

ENGAGE Young Professionals Leadership Summit

PARTNERS

ALPFA El Paso

el paso chapter of credit unions YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Progress321

YCPA el paso Young Certified Public Accountants

SPONSORS

Title

WestStar

Gold

The Electric Company El Paso Electric

Silver

BBVA Compass Creating Opportunities

Freeport-McMoRan

Helen of Troy

HUNT

Lauterbach Borschow

Southwest Finance Management Group

Wells Fargo

Vision for 2019

In 2019, we'll be focused on expanding our network in order to better serve more young professionals across the city and across different sectors of business. We've taken feedback and input from members to develop a calendar of events focused on entertaining, enlightening and informing our members all while hearing from the best of the best in our community. We hope to continue to build the next generation of philanthropists who understand the ties between civic engagement and the betterment of our community.

HERE'S TO ANOTHER DECADE & MORE.

TESTIMONIALS

What Members are Saying

DAVID VALENZUELA
TEXAS GAS

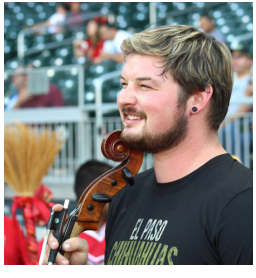
I decided to become a member of the Young Leaders Society not only because I want to help the community, but also, I want to set the example to young professionals, like me. Change can only be done if we are committed to achieve it.

ANGIE RODRIGUEZ
EL PASO ELECTRIC

I see a lot of good changes happening in El Paso and I thought that I want to be a part of this great movement. I attended one of the Wine & Wisdom events and learned that Young Leaders Society was the organization that engages and empowers young professionals in El Paso to work together to improve our community.

CHRISTOPHER MONTOYA
WELLS FARGO

I decided to join Young Leaders Society (YLS) because I feel it is important to invest in yourself and continue to grow professionally. YLS has provided great learning experiences and workshops that I can apply in real life. It has also provided excellent networking opportunities and I have been able to build new friendships with other young professionals. We have a vision for the future of El Paso!



United Way Young Leaders Society

United Way of El Paso County

@uwylselpaso | uwylselpaso.org