

Pathways for Women's Excellence in Supply Chain Careers



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Leaning In @ Fisher/OSU

On January 23, our group had the opportunity to meet with two leaders of Columbus area businesses. Kathy Warnick, CEO and founder of Warnick Consultants, LLC, described her firm's work with small business clients over the past 20 years in the areas of back-office process management to financial management and accounting. Kathy is also the Chair Elect, the National Board of Directors, National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). Kimmi Wernli, CEO Crazy Peanut Butter also joined the group to discuss running a family owned business focusing on making and delivering all natural peanut butter. Crazy Richard's partnered with Crema starting in the 1980s and is available in over 7,000 stores nationwide. Kimmi discussed the challenges of 3rd party manufacturing, distribution and building a national brand with the group.

The theme for the day was organized around Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg's book Lean In (with autographed copies provided by the author's foundation!). The group discussed ways in which women's career paths might (or might not) differ from men's. Kathy and Kimmi both provided insights to the students regarding challenges and opportunities they had experienced during the careers. In addition, they discussed mentors who had positively influence their careers.

The group talked openly for almost an hour and a half with many positive exchanges. According to 1st year student Amy Zucker, "It was really beneficial to have a conversation about *Lean In* with two professional businesswomen and hear their experiences in relation to the book. I found that *Lean In* brought up some contemporary issues about women in the workplace, but it also gave advice on being a successful businessperson, regardless of gender."

Mentorship Lunch

Each of the Pathways scholars has been meeting with their assigned mentor – from either Wendy's QSCC or Motorists Insurance – periodically throughout the year. The goal is to give the scholars a chance to discuss challenges/opportunities in adjusting to college their first year, as well as develop a relationship with someone who can provide some informal advice on different business issues. On February 6, the group had a pizza lunch with both mentors and scholars in one room. The following mentors attended:

Mentors- Motorists Insurance

- DJ Devaney, Manager, Supply Management Services
- Brad Higgins, AVP, Supply Management Services
- Cheryl Stagg, Strategic & Analysis Advisor, Supply Management Services

Mentors – Wendy's Quality SC Cooperative

- Krista Pohlman, Sr. Director – Program Management
- Kim Allen, Sr. Manager, Program Management
- Katelynn Rossi, Manager, Logistics
- Adam Dyas, Manager – Business Analytics

Adam Dyas from Wendy's QSCC said of the lunch: "The Mentorship Lunch was a great opportunity for the mentors and scholars to come together as a group and discuss large issues like relationship-building and experiential knowledge. As a

mentor, I enjoyed hearing about the work being done by other mentor/scholar teams and I certainly plan on utilizing some of the ideas and content discussed during the luncheon. I believe I speak for all the QSCC mentors when I say that we continue to be highly impressed by the young ladies in the Pathways program. Their dedication, curiosity and insightfulness is outstanding and, as an organization, we're lucky to have this opportunity to build relationships with the leaders of tomorrow." Another mentor, Cheryl Stagg of Motorists Insurance Group says: "I continue to be amazed at the level of professionalism these students portray for being in their freshman year at OSU! I am confident they will all be very successful in whatever career path they choose. Regardless of the topic of discussion, they are always very engaging and ask thoughtful and probing questions."

Pathways scholar Charlotte Fore reports that "Throughout the year thus far, I have already found the mentorship pairings through Motorists and Wendy's to be incredibly valuable. From resume critiques to networking tips, DJ Devaney has given me valuable advice that I will continue to use throughout my life in the business world. I look forward to learning even more from him in the coming months."

Next Event: February 27, Visit to Contitech – Manufacturer of Conveyor belt treads for Heavy Duty Mining equipment. Marysville, OH. 12 – 4 PM

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<https://fisher.osu.edu/academic-departments/management-sciences/pathways-program>

