

You're AFWA Monthly Newsletter is here!



Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance
CONNECT • ADVANCE • LEAD
Mesa East Valley Chapter

Mesa East Valley's IN TOUCH

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March 8th-
**Your Prosperity Picture –
Clarify Your Vision for Your
LIFE!**

1 Hour CPE at Dobson
Restaurant



Shanna Tingom is an independent financial professional and the founder of Heritage Financial Strategies. Her specialty is working with female entrepreneurs, business leaders, and individuals experiencing life transition. In her presentation, she will share information on creating a successful financial plan for your life.

Coming Up:
March 19th- [Heart Walk](#)



April 2nd - [Mentoring Brunch](#)
April 23rd- [Fun Event @ FatCatz](#)



Member Spotlight – Meet Our Chapter Scholarship Winner

Andrea Garcia might make success look easy, but if you are a woman pursuing excellence, she is an example to us all of the power of perseverance. Her path to Accounting was not straight, but it was full of honest self-reflection and a high level of ambitious activity. Quiet and analytical, Andrea is an observer who doesn't just watch from the sidelines, she makes conscious and strategic decisions that are leading her down the path of a career to be proud of.

Born in Arizona of immigrant parents and raised by her single mom, Andrea is happy to see her mother re-married and enjoys the addition of a 4 year old sister after having been an only child most of her life. In her junior year of high school, she found herself in three different schools after moving between Arizona, California and Oregon. Despite the challenges of starting over in new schools, Andrea maintained a high GPA, was involved in cross country, soccer, long-distance track, national honor society, the a capella group and fellowship of Christian athletes. If that sounds like an ambitious schedule, imagine how she worked in a job at Target on top of it all. At 16, she loved having the ability to pay for her own things and stayed with Target until she graduated at the top of her class, 4th to be exact.

Clearly Andrea has an internal drive that keeps her focused and engaged. She took the same approach with college by applying for a select group of schools and choosing UofA for her first year because she received a full ride scholarship. With the long term mindset of minimizing loan repayment, Andrea already had a head for Accounting, but that wasn't her first choice of major. On a pre-med track, she quickly realized that she was not doing well in her core science classes and explored a few different majors before taking her first accounting class. One class and she immediately knew Accounting was where she belonged.

After a strategic choice to not work her first year of school and changing her major to accounting, Andrea set out to find a job. She didn't have a specific job in mind to do so when her mom suggested she take the H&R Block tax course to see if she was interested in preparing taxes, she not only took the course, but got the job as a tax preparer. Her season with H&R Block confirmed for her that accounting was "both what I wanted to study and wanted to do for work." After her experience with H&R Block, she landed her current position with Allen L. Nahrwold, CPA, P.C. where she has been for almost three years. This has been her favorite job because as she says, "I have learned and grown so much while being here." She is currently at Devry to finish her school work with the long term goal of obtaining her CPA.

To attain her goals, she applies for scholarships as often as she can with

minimizing long term debt still top of mind. She was motivated to apply for our Chapter Scholarship because she felt she was a good candidate, which we wholeheartedly agree with. She also thought the application process was easy and from the perspective of a seasoned scholarship applicant, it likely is, but surprisingly many students don't have the work ethic and long term planning that Andrea does. This could be good news for her as she submits her application for our National Foundation Scholarship for which our chapter has endorsed her.

We all enjoyed meeting Andrea at our October student night and were happy that she chose our chapter as a good fit for her. Monthly meetings with relatable topics were what she was looking for. She became a member and jumped in with both feet quickly being recognized not only as a top scholarship applicant, but also for her leadership potential. We are happy to announce that Andrea has accepted the nomination to the position of secretary for the 2016-17 Board. You might not have guessed it from her quiet nature in meetings so far, but Andrea loves making jokes and we look forward to having her energy and sense of humor on the leadership team next fiscal year.



President's Corner with Deanna Schantel

Focus on Learning

Congratulations to Andrea Garcia, new member and \$1,000 Chapter Scholarship winner! It was a pleasure to see Shelby present the official award to Andrea at our February meeting. Being able to support our members in all phases of their careers is one of the things I enjoy the most about being a member myself. No matter where you are in your career, as members we have access to a wide range of educational support. If you're not already taking advantage or don't know about these benefits, take a look at what your AFWA membership provides:

Chapter Scholarships like the one Andrea won are annual, vary in amount depending on our chapter's successes during the year, apply to all degree levels, favors members, and are due in December.

National Scholarships are available through The Foundation, apply to undergraduate Juniors and higher, Master and PhD level degrees, vary in amount and type, and are due by April 1st. Applications are now being accepted.

<http://www.afwa.org/foundation/scholarships/#.Vs3hPbf2ZtN>

CPE Credits to support your ongoing education and CPA credentials are available at meetings, annual seminars, national and regional conferences, and other promoted events. Each dollar you invest in your participation with AFWA events earns a high return to your personal and professional development.

Webinars are always available on your member access portal and live event webinars now offer CPE credit as well. Webinars include personal and professional development tracks as well as highlight members so if you are wondering who to network with to meet your goals, check out the meet the expert

webinars. <http://www.afwa.org/events/#.Vs3mDbf2ZtM>

The Master Presenter Course is a 6 week course designed to “dive deep into your experiences and knowledge” and guide you through organizing a presentation that will make an impression. At only \$49 for members, the course teaches you step by step and offers 4 CPE credits. <http://www.afwa.org/master-presenter/#.Vs3mV7f2ZtN>

Whether you are at the beginning of your career working toward a degree, reinventing yourself to make a midlife change, or looking for the next push in your career, AFWA has the tools to help you stay relevant. Most of what we do as an organization is tailored to our unique perspective as women differentiating us from other professional groups and customizing those tools with a perspective you can leverage.

We are heading into March and the close of the first quarter. What's on your 2016 Goals Achieved report? Take a look at our calendar and start checking off those development goals by taking advantage of upcoming opportunities.

STAY CONNECTED



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action).

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

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