

Join us for our annual

# Powerful Purses Luncheon & Auction

*Presented by POWERFUL PURSES, INC.*

**Wednesday, April 1st, 2026**

**The Fort Worth Club**

**306 W 7th St, Fort Worth, TX 76102**

*Proceeds benefit the birth mothers of the Gladney Center for Adoption and the Young Women's Leadership Academy with college level scholarships, and supports the mission of POWERFUL PURSES, INC.*



POWERFUL PURSES is a perfect opportunity for you and your company to connect with the commercial real estate industry and other business leaders in the community! The luncheon and silent auction feature a unique and exclusive conversation with a business and philanthropic woman, interviewed by Deborah Ferguson, NBC 5 TODAY Co-Anchor. POWERFUL PURSES attracts top-level professionals and entrepreneurs and offers sponsors an excellent opportunity for name recognition, brand exposure and networking.

## ***Sponsorship Opportunities – All Levels Include Complimentary Parking***

### **\$5,000.00 – MONEYBAG SPONSOR**

*Increases in \$5K increments;  
opportunity to customize*

- Logo recognition on all collateral and signage
- Recognition from the podium as a Sponsor
- Representation on **POWERFUL PURSES** website
- Reserved table for eight (8)
- Opportunity for gift/materials at place settings
- Full page ad in the program

### **\$2,500.00 – HANDBAG SPONSOR**

- Logo recognition on all collateral and signage
- Recognition from the podium as a Sponsor
- Representation on **POWERFUL PURSES** website
- Reserved table for eight (8)
- Opportunity for gift/materials at place settings
- Full page ad in the program

### **\$1,500.00 – Pocketbook SPONSOR**

- Name recognition on all collateral and signage
- Representation on **POWERFUL PURSES** website
- Reserved table for eight (8)
- Half page ad in the program

## ***Confirm Your Sponsorship Today***

### **Sponsorship Team:**

Ginger Johnson, Co-Chair  
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ginger.johnson@prosperitybankusa.com

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Bennett Partners  
bburns@bennett.partners

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Robert Fitzgerald  
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Barbara A. Fife, Co-Founder | 817-925-4900 | barbfife@sbcglobal.net

# Celebrating 16 Years of Impactful Events

## Hosted by Powerful Purses

Powerful Purses provides college level academic scholarships, through a master's degree, to qualified birth mothers of the Gladney Center and Y.W.L.A. seniors. Scholars receive the Barbara A. Fife Academic Scholarships, and our Cynthia R. Bailey Dress For Success Scholarships and Programs including professional/college attire, interview/career attire, mentoring, networking opportunities, etc.

Universities Our Scholars have and/or currently attending include:

A&M, Austin Community College, Blinn College, Chamberlain, Eastfield Community College, Louisiana Tech, North Texas-Denton, SMU, Sam Houston State, TCCD, TCU, Tarleton State, Texas Tech, Temple Junior College, Texas Woman's University, UT-Arlington, UT-Dallas, Weatherford College

Master's Degree by Our Scholars: Completed by LaThisa (UTA) | Master's Degree – In Progress by Latoya (UTA)

### OUR MEMORABLE PROGRAM EVENTS

- 2012** – Moderator, Karen Borta, Anchor, KTBT Channel 11  
Guest Panelists: Dr. Terry Neese & Dr. Marti Carlin
- 2014** – Moderator, Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
Guest Panelists: Cathy Bonner, Harriet Miers, and Hillary Strasner
- 2015** – Moderator, Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
Guest Panelists: Ka Cotter, Ann Loudon, and Deborah C. Wright
- 2016** – Moderator, Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
Guest Panelists: Becky Renfro, Valerie Freeman, and Mary Beth West
- 2017** – Moderator, Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
Guest Panelists: Renee Arrington, Lillie Biggins, Kellie Fischer, and Cynthia 'Cynt' Marshall
- 2018** – Moderator, Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
Guest Panelists: Beth Lambert, Shara McClure, and Kathy Whitworth
- 2019** – Exclusive Interview & Conversation by Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
With Featured Guest Nancy K. Hayden, Ph.D., A Principle Systems Analyst for Sandia National Laboratories
- 2020 & 2021** – Events Not Held Due To COVID-19
- 2022** – Exclusive Interview & Conversation by Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
With Featured Guest Cynthia 'Cynt' Marshall, CEO of the Dallas MAVS & Pres/CEO of Marshalling Resources Consulting and Retired AT&T SVP-Human Resources & Chief Diversity Officer
- 2023** – Exclusive Interview & Conversation by Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY!  
With Featured Guest Tracy Walder, Adjunct Instructor of Criminal Justice, TCU; Former Special Agent, FBI | Former Staff Operations for CIA's Counterterrorism Center
- 2024** – Cancelled, Program guest's company was involved in military defense/etc and activities in the Middle East occurred, which required our guest speaker to travel the week of our event.
- 2025** – Exclusive Interview & Conversation Featuring Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY! & Aerospace & Aviation Experts
- \* Dr. Wendy A. Okola, NASA Aerospace Research Engineer & Associate Project Manager in the Intelligent Systems Division at NASA Ames Research Center in California Silicon Valley, Award Recipient, Inventor, Author, and Mentor. Dr. Okola interned at Lockheed Martin on its F-35C Program and holds a U.S. Patent.
  - \*. Ritupriya Patil, Software Verification Operations Lead at Joby Aviation, headquartered in Santa Cruz, CA. Project PoSSUM Analog Astronaut Candidate, Exec Officer & EVA Lead, CREW 281, Mars Mission, Utah, Analog Astronaut & Crew Scientist at the Mars Desert Research Station.
- 2026** – Exclusive Interview & Conversation Featuring Deborah Ferguson, Anchor, NBC 5 TODAY! on Artificial Intelligence  
Melanie Harris Senior Council for AI & Emerging Technology at Maximus  
**See Flyer 'Save The Date' announcement with more in-depth information**

**Powerful Purses, Inc. | 817 - 925 - 4900 | [PowerfulPurses.com](https://PowerfulPurses.com)**

**Founded in 2010 by Cynthia R. Bailey & Barbara A. Fife**

# Exclusive Interview & Conversation on Artificial Intelligence WITH MELANIE HARRIS



## Senior Counsel for AI & Emerging Technology at Maximus

Melaine is a seasoned attorney with extensive public and private sector experience advising senior leaders on the legal, regulatory, and ethical dimensions of technology. At Maximus, she provides strategic guidance to C-suite executives on legal, cyber security, and compliance risks associated with the company's use of AI to drive innovation and digital transformation.

Before joining Maximus, Melanie served for more than a decade in the U.S. Department of Defense Office of General Counsel, culminating in a Pentagon assignment where she supported the Department's national security and intelligence operations. Her time at DoD included a 6-month deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, where she provided legal oversight to all

active intelligence operations in country, providing critical counsel to senior military leaders in support of U.S. and Coalition missions.

Melanie's experience extends to the White House Office of the National Cyber Director, where she served as Special Counsel for Compliance and built the organization's inaugural compliance framework. Her career reflects a commitment to driving responsible innovation, strengthening national security, and ensuring the ethical use of emerging technologies.

Melanie holds a Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Spanish from Texas Christian University.

FEATURING  
CELEBRITY INTERVIEWER

**DEBORAH FERGUSON,  
ANCHOR - NBC 5 TODAY**



## SAVE THE DATE

# April 1st | The Fort Worth Club

**Powerful Purses, Inc.**  
a 501(c)(3) charity organization

**Contact: 817-925-4900**  
[www.powerfulpurses.com](http://www.powerfulpurses.com)

Providing college level scholarships to  
qualified birth mothers of Gladney Center &  
Y.W.L.A. seniors.







# MEET A FEW SCHOLARS



*Pictured (L to R): LaThisa, Sydney, Amanda & Emma*



*Pictured (L to R): Carley, Latoya & Sydney*



*Jamere*



*Amy*



*Emily*



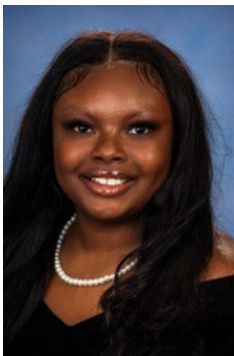
*Jackie*



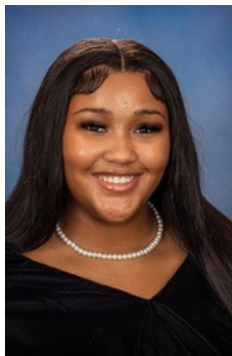
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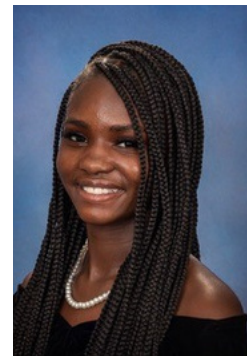
*Sin'la*



*Kaci*



*Karen*



*Jamie*





# SCHOLAR NEWS



## 2024 GRADUATED SCHOLAR – RASHYIA

Rashyia has graduated from Taleton and has begun her career as a Teacher in Fort Worth ISD



## ENROLLED IN MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM – LATOYA

Latoya is attending UTA for her Master of Science in Nursing



# SEE THE POWER OF EDUCATION

The Evolution of Our Graduates through Powerful Purses Academic Scholarships,  
Cynthia R. Bailey Dress for Success, Mentoring & Networking Opportunities



**APPLICANT**



**GRADUATE**



**APPLICANT**



**GRADUATE**



## HEAR FROM OUR SCHOLARS

“ I wanted to write to let you all know that I did it! I graduated and I couldn't have done it without all of you. I am grateful for the wonderful scholarship that has helped me in so many ways. There was a point when I doubted I would ever be able to walk across that stage. Powerful Purses changed that for me, and I just can't thank you enough.

*Amanda*

(TCCD & UTA)

“ This scholarship truly means so much for me and the future of my children. I work full time and am a single mom of two young girls and being back in the classroom really helps me see a better outlook. You have mentored me and taught me so much about professional clothes, shoes and networking. These scholarships are truly changing my life.

*Carley*

(TCCD & Tarleton)

“ I just wanted to give y'all an update on my life as well as say Thank You again for helping me achieve my dream of becoming a nurse and for providing me with professional clothes after graduation for my interviews. For every interview I arrived feeling confident and a majority of that confidence came from knowing that I looked the part. Thank you so much for believing in me and providing me with all the tools to succeed. I am forever grateful as I continue to grow in my life and career.

*Davie*

TCU



I am so grateful for the Powerful Purses scholarship and what it empowered me to achieve while a scholarship recipient and now after. Not only did the scholarship and the financial gift covering my student debt relieve me of a financial burden but it inspired me to make the most out of my circumstances and opportunities. I graduated in 3 and half years with a Bachelors in Psychology and a minor in Business. I am now a management consultant at PwC. That didn't happen by chance. Powerful Purses was thoughtful about how to best enable me for success. I am forever grateful for Powerful Purses.

*Emma*

(Texas A&M)

“ My life was at a low point when I met the Powerful Purses team. I was married and we had special needs child when I became pregnant again. My husband left us and I adopted out the second son to provide him with a better life than I could offer. The scholarship is allowing me to improve life for me and my special-needs son. Powerful Purses has provided not only academic funding, but provided me with a much needed laptop for my courses and special course materials. I was able to learn in the classroom and learn from a team of supportive women on career and social protocol. Thank you for everything.

*Erin*

(TCCD & UTA)





“ I am extremely grateful for the scholarships awarded me throughout my academic journey. I am working towards a Business degree in Accounting. The scholarship has helped me worry less and work toward my goal of graduating. I cannot thank you enough for the opportunities you have given me.

*Sydney*

(Weatherford College and Texas Tech)

“ Thank you to Powerful Purses for the academic scholarship that allowed me to attain a Master’s Degree in Social Work. The scholarships lightened my financial burdens and also paid off the remaining university student debt loan when I graduated. I was treated to lunches with community leaders for mentoring along with the mentoring events provided for the scholars transitioning into professional settings where we learned to network and learning from business leaders who spoke to us. Powerful Purses supported me and made a difference in my life.

*Lathisa*

(UTA, Masters Degree)