



# Governor's Commission for Women 2009-2011 Biennial Report



# Table of Contents

---

<b>Letter from the Chair.....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>The 2009-2011 Commission.....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Beacon State Fund.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>State Agency Council.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Outstanding Women in Texas Government.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Texas Women’s Hall of Fame.....</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Legislative Luncheon.....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Texas Conference for Women.....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Constituent Casework.....</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>Community Events &amp; Projects.....</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<b>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math .....</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Economic Development for Women.....</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Assistance to Military Families.....</b>	<b>Page 17</b>

# Letter from the Chair

---

On behalf of the Governor's Commission for Women, I am pleased to present our 2009-2011 biennial report. Established in 1967, the Governor's Commission for Women, a division of the Office of the Governor, specializes in research and referral, outreach, and education services for women. We seek to help Texas women live healthy, productive, and prosperous lives.

During the 2009-2011 term, the Commission focused on three key areas - empowering girls to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers, increasing employment opportunities for women beyond the age of fifty, and providing assistance to Texas military families.

The Commission promotes women's participation in the high-demand fields of STEM. Women make up 46 percent of the workforce, but hold only 25 percent of the jobs in STEM fields. In order to address this issue, the Commission supported a Girls in STEM Conference at The University of Texas at Austin and funded several grants to bring STEM education to students statewide.

In 2009, more than 1.5 million Americans age 50 and older were unemployed. Many of the unemployed were women from single-income households. The Governor's Commission for Women helps women beyond 50 return to the workforce, change professions, or further their education. The commission partnered with Texas Women in Business for the Beyond 50...Ready, Set Go! Conference and participated in the Senior Fiesta, a San Antonio event for individuals who are 55 and older.

Texas is home to the second largest number of women who serve in the military. As a way to help military families meet physical, emotional, and financial needs, the Commission supports organizations such as Operation Homefront and the Warrior and Family Support Center. Texas First Lady Anita Perry helped the Commission by taping a public service announcement for military families promoting 2-1-1.

In addition, the Commission provided important resource and referral information to women across the state, hosted more than 400 guests at a legislative luncheon to honor female legislators, and inducted four incredible women into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

It has been an honor serving as the Chair, and I am grateful to the commissioners who have enthusiastically worked to fulfill our mission. Most importantly, I would like to extend our appreciation to Governor Rick Perry and Texas First Lady Anita Perry for their long-standing support of the Commission's efforts to advance the status of women throughout Texas.

Sincerely,

Carol Peterson  
Chair 2009-2011  
Texas Governor's Commission for Women

# The 2009-2011 Commission

---

In 1967, the Governor's Commission for Women was established by Executive Order. The Governor appoints commissioners, selected based on their leadership attributes and community involvement, to two-yea terms.

The following individuals serve on the Governor's Commission for Women:

**Carol Peterson, Chair**

**Cris Graham**

**Carmen Pagan, Vice Chair**

**Cynthia Jenkins**

**Claudia Abney**

**Lisa Lucero**

**Gina Bridwell**

**Becky McKinley**

**Stephanie Cavender**

**Tresa Rockwell**



*2009-2011 Governor's Commission for Women*

# Beacon State Fund

---

The Governor's Commission for Women is financially supported by the Office of the Governor and the Beacon State Fund, a non-profit organization established in 1996. The organization funds all of the Commission's important projects, while the Office of the Governor pays for commission travel, staff, and administrative expenses.



## State Agency Council

---

The State Agency Council was established by Governor Mark White in 1983 to support the goals of the Governor's Commission for Women while providing professional development trainings and community service opportunities for its members. State Agency Council members are appointed by the executive director of each state agency. Agencies designate one member and one alternate who serve a two-year appointment..

### 2009-2011 State Agency Council Board of Directors

**Avis M. O'Reilly**, Chair  
Texas Workforce Commission

**Martha Gussoni**, Special Events Chair  
Texas Funeral Service Commission

**Raette Smith Hearne**, Vice-Chair  
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**Suzanne Guerrero**, Treasurer  
Texas General Land Office

**Shelley Harris-Curtsinger**, Membership Director  
Texas Racing Commission

**Jo Dale Guzman**, Secretary  
State Auditor's Office

**Gabriela Klien**, Past Chair  
Texas Public Finance Authority

# State Agency Council

---

## **Community Outreach:**

In December 2010, Council members toured Lifeworks and donated money and goods valued at \$1,250 to the organization. Lifeworks is a non-profit that provides services to youth, primarily focusing on homelessness. The group also assists youth dealing with emotional distress and violence, including a focus on dating violence.

In July 2011, Council members donated \$1,540 in cash and donations to Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade. Operation Homefront supports military families in Texas by providing financial assistance, networking opportunities, child care, travel, and more. The Back-to-School Brigade provides backpacks filled with school supplies to local military children in need.

## **Professional Development:**

The Council held 22 meetings on topics of interest to female professionals. Topics included: business etiquette, factors of high performing women, accessibility issues in the workplace, how to network effectively, strategies for successful management, osteoporosis, leadership, estate planning, and financial literacy.

## **Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards:**

The State Agency Council created the Outstanding Women in Texas Government in 1984 to honor women who work in state government. Honorees have contributed their time, talent and skills to serve the State and do not hold elected or appointed positions.

Individuals are nominated by state agency directors and selected by an independent panel of judges. A luncheon ceremony was held on September 15, 2010 at the University of Texas' Frank Erwin Center and the keynote speaker was Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman.

## **Outstanding Women in Texas Government Honorees:**

### **Eugenie S. Kleinerman, M.D.**

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
*Outstanding Management Award*

### **Kathy Perkins**

Texas Department of State Health Services  
*Outstanding Professional Development Award*

### **Nicole Verver**

Texas Workforce Commission  
*Outstanding Contribution Award*

### **Anna Michele Bobadilla**

The University of Texas at Arlington  
*Outstanding Community Involvement Award*



# Texas Women's Hall of Fame

---

The Texas Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1984 by the Governor's Commission for Women to honor Texas' most accomplished women. Inductees include former first ladies, entrepreneurs, astronauts, and athletes.

In 2003, the Commission established a permanent Texas Women's Hall of Fame exhibit at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. The 131 honorees' photographs and biographies are displayed throughout the exhibit. An interactive computer kiosk features archived interviews with honorees and video footage of induction ceremonies.



*The Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit at Texas Woman's University*

## **Nomination Process**

Nominations are submitted to the Governor's Commission for Women and are evaluated by a panel of judges. Inductees are selected based on the following criteria:

- Nominees must be native or current residents of Texas.
- The service or achievement must have been performed in Texas.
- Nominees must have been active within the last five years in the category for which they are nominated.
- A statement must be submitted describing the nominee's contribution to the State of Texas as well as biographical information and honors or awards received by the nominee.

# Texas Women's Hall of Fame

## 2010 Honorees

---



**Cultural Leadership**  
**Teresa Lozano Long, Ed.D.**



**Health**  
**Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.**



**Higher Education**  
**Erma Johnson Hadley**



**Public Service**  
**Pamela Pitzer Willeford**



**Leadership**  
**Judy Castle Scott**

# Texas Women's Hall of Fame

---

## 1984

Christia V. Daniels Adair  
Kate Atkinson Bell  
Vivian Lou Anderson Castleberry  
Lila May Banks Cockrell  
Clotilde P. Garcia, M.D.  
Jeane Porter Hester, M.D.  
Oveta Culp Hobby  
Dr. Mary Evelyn Blagg Huey  
Sarah Tilghman Hughes  
Lady Bird Taylor Johnson  
Barbara Jordan  
Dr. Amy Freeman Lee

## 1985

Benjy Frances Brooks, M.D.  
Patricia Happ Buffer  
Liz Carpenter  
Grace Woodruff Cartwright  
Helen Farabee  
Maria Elena A. Flood  
Willie Lee Glass  
Lydia Mendoza  
Jenny Lind Porter  
Louise Ballerstedt Raggio  
Ann Richards

## 1986

Anne Legendre Armstrong  
Mary Kay Ash  
Caro Crawford Brown  
Alicia R. Chacon  
Jody Conradt  
Margaret Cousins  
Wilhelmina Fitzgerald Delco  
Mary Lavinia Griffith  
Frances E. Goff  
Dr. May Owen  
Sally Kirsten Ride  
Ada Simond  
Hermine Dalkowitz Tobolowsky

## 1987

Lucy G. Acosta  
Ruth Sharp Altshuler  
Margaret Greer Harris Amsler  
Johmie Marie Benson  
Tommy Clack  
Kim Dawson  
Dr. Dora Jean Dougherty Strother  
Brig. Gen. Lillian Dunlap  
Elithe Hamilton Kirkland  
Dr. Donna Lopiano  
Katie Sherrod  
Dr. Donnya Elle Stephens  
Mary Nan West

## 1988

Nancy Brinker  
Margaret Pease Harper  
Ninfa Laurenzo  
Dr. Lane Murray  
Louise Ritter  
Ruth Taubert Seeger  
Bert Kruger Smith  
Eleanor Tinsley

## 1989

Barbara Bush  
Judith B. Craven, M.D., MPH  
Gussie Nell Davis  
Margaret Swan Forbes  
L. Ruth Guy, Ph.D.  
Terese Tarlton Hershey  
Lucia Rede Madrid  
Jane A. Wetzel

## 1993

Linda Louise Craft  
The Hon. Ernestine V. Glossbrenner  
Gabrielle Kirk McDonald  
Eleanor D. Montague, M.D.  
Aronetta H. Pierce  
Gloria G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
The Hon. Annetee Strauss

## 1994

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero  
Irma L. Rangel  
Mary Beth Rogers  
Bess Whitehead Scott  
Hallie Stillwell  
Francie Larriew Smith  
Alvia J. Wardlaw  
Martha J. Wong, Ed.D.  
Eleanor Anne Young, Ph.D.

## 1996

Ebby Halliday Acers  
Rita Crockers Clements  
Zina Garrison  
Sybil B. Harrington  
The Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Vassar Miller  
Dr. Helen Matusевич Oujesky  
Dian Graves Owen  
Ruby Lee Piester  
Dr. Sonja Eva Singletary

## 1998

Norma Lea Beasley  
Shirley Carter  
Elizabeth L. Ghrist  
The Hon. Kay Granger  
Dr. Dixie Melilli  
Dr. Diana Natalicio  
Marsha Sharp

## 2000

Tillie Burgin  
Carol Eggert Dinkins  
Anna Maria Farias  
Juliet V. Garcia, Ph.D.  
Glenna Goodacre  
Wendy Schlessel Harpham, M.D.  
Jinger L. Heath  
Dealey Decherd Herndon  
Mamie L. McKnight, Ph.D.  
Jo Stewart Randel  
Judy Rankin

## 2002

Dr. Mae Johnson  
Ann Williams  
Karen Hughes  
Sister Angela Murdaugh

## 2004

The Hon. Susan Combs  
Trinidad Mendenhall  
Mary Meyers Rosenfield  
Sheryl Swoopes

## 2006

Dr. Shirley Neeley  
Kathleen Foster  
Dr. Ellen Vitetta  
Amanda Dunbar

## 2008

Huda Zoghbi, M.D.  
The Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor  
Carolyn Peterson, FAIA  
Louise Hopkins Underwood  
Elsa Murano, Ph.D.

## 2010

Teresa Lozano Long, Ed.D.  
Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.  
Erma Johnson Hadley  
Judy Castle Scott  
Pamela Pitzer Willeford

# 2011 Legislative Luncheon

---

On April 26, 2011 the Governor's Commission for Women hosted an event at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol to honor the 38 women members of the 82nd Texas Legislature.

The biennial event gives the commission an opportunity to honor women in government while raising awareness of the commission's work on behalf of women. Actress and philanthropist, Janine Turner served as mistress of ceremonies. Governor Rick Perry, Texas First Lady Anita Perry and Speaker Straus joined us for this special occasion.

The money generated from the event funds commission initiatives to assist women and girls. Thanks to generosity of our sponsors, the Governor's Commission for Women raised more than \$109,000 for the Beacon State Fund, a non-profit established to support the Governor's Commission for Women.



## Texas Conference for Women

---

The Texas Conference for Women is hosted by Texas First Lady Perry at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. More than 40,000 women have attended the conferences over the years. In 2010, the conference featured keynote speakers Glenda Hatchett, Leigh Anne Tuohy and Jennifer Arnold. A career pavilion offers resume reviews, mentor matches, and a LinkedIn lounge. Conference workshops focus on topics such as health, small business, financial management, networking, and professional development. For more information please visit [www.txconferenceforwomen.org](http://www.txconferenceforwomen.org).

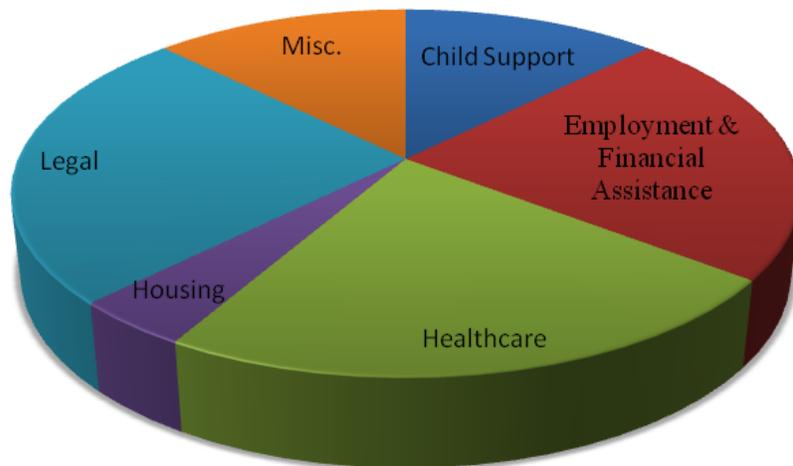
# Constituent Casework

---

The graphs below give an overview of the 126 constituent requests received by the Commission office between January 2010 and October 2011. The staff at the Governor’s Commission for Women provides constituents with referrals to various service providers, or in some cases, makes contact with the appropriate state agency liaison to try and resolve an issue.

Below is a graph outlining the primary issues of concern:

## Personal Needs



## Constituent Casework

“The Governor’s Commission for Women, provided me with immediate, relevant and productive referrals, without the red tape or layers of bureaucracy impeding my access to services to help me move forward with my life and new career path. Through her referrals, I was able to network immediately with dynamic forward thinking, and well connected organizations for women, and begin the process of rebuilding my life with a view to starting women-owned business in Texas”

--KT



# Community Projects

---



---

## Breast Cancer Awareness

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Governor's Commission for Women co-hosts a breast cancer awareness press event and reception for survivors. The event educates women on the importance of early detection through mammogram self examinations and annual screenings.



In 2011, the breast cancer awareness event was held at El Buen Samaritano where a mobile mammography unit provided free screenings. Ana Sierra, a breast cancer survivor, spoke about how she could not afford a mammogram and was first diagnosed with breast cancer by a mobile mammography unit. Additional speakers included Dr. Lakey from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Bill Gimson from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, and Dawn Parsons from Seton Hospital. The event concluded with the release of pink and white balloons to honor those who lost their fight against breast cancer.

# Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

---

"As we work to prepare Texas children to compete with an increasingly technical global workforce, education in science, technology, engineering and math is essential to their success."

- Governor Rick Perry

---

## Girl's in STEM Conference

The Governor's Commission for Women sponsored the *Girls in STEM Conference* at the University of Texas at Austin on April 17, 2010. *Girls in STEM* is a one-day program that provides 4th through 8th grade girls with hands-on learning experiences in STEM related fields and introduces girls to STEM careers. While at the conference, girls participate in interactive workshops with women who are professionals in fields such as pharmacy, veterinary medicine, biology, technology, and engineering. Each year, more than 400 girls participate from 17 different areas from around the state. In a post conference survey, 97% of the girls who participated in the conference reported they had an increased awareness of STEM careers, and 97% of the girls stated they had an improved understanding about how higher education can increase their career options.



"I loved that the program offered a wide variety of workshops for the girls to attend. It encouraged the girls to continue their education as well as provide helpful information for their future careers."

-Ericca Caldwell

"I got to have fun and learn at the same time."

- Student

---

## Donation to the Girl Scouts of Central Texas



The Governor's Commission for Women made a financial contribution to the Girl Scouts of Central Texas' EDGE Program which provides workshops and educational programming to increase girls interest in STEM. The Girl Scouts create an environment where girls are able to grow in self confidence while they explore technology, serving 20,050 girls in 42 countries.



---

## Texas Girls Collaborative Project's Mini Grant Program

### Texas Girls Collaborative Project



The Governor's Commission for Women's non-profit donated \$2,500 to the Texas Girls Collaborative Project's Mini-Grant Program. Grants are provided to schools and organizations that offer informal learning techniques and foster collaborations between existing programs to address gaps in the STEM resources available to girls. The donation will impact more than 470 students statewide.

# Economic Development: Helping Women Over 50

---

“Our long-term challenge is to create jobs, to grow the economy and to make Texas more resistant to future downturns in the national economy.”

—Governor Rick Perry

---

## Senior Fiesta San Antonio, Texas

The Governor’s Commission for Women hosted a booth at the Senior Fiesta! in San Antonio on April 13, 2011 for individuals age fifty-five and beyond. Commissioners distributed information created by the Texas Workforce Commission to attendees regarding employment opportunities for older workers. A representative from the local American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Office was available to answer questions. An estimated 5,000 people attended the event.



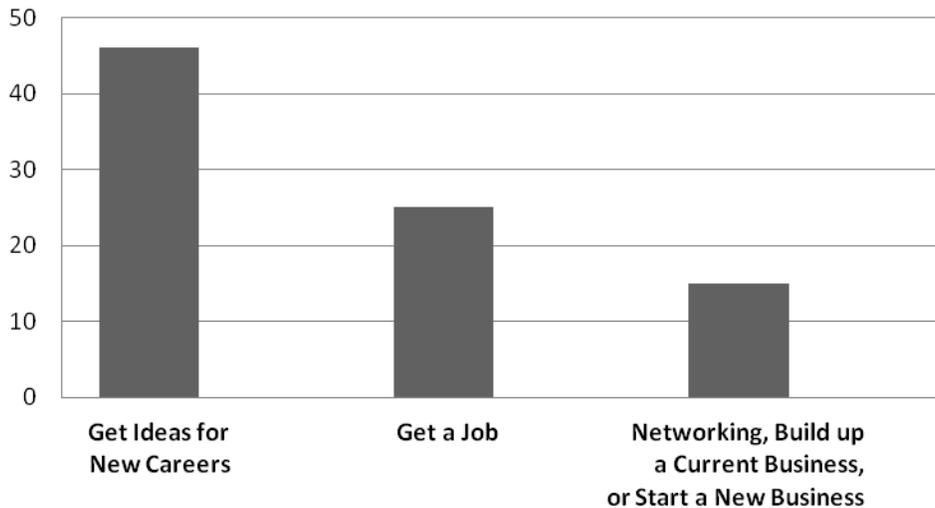
*Assisting seniors with resources*

## NEXT-BEYOND 50...READY, SET, GO!

### A Conference for Women

The Governor's Commission for Women, and the Texas Women in Business (TWIB) hosted a conference for women over 50 who want to return to work, change professions, or further their education. The NEXT - BEYOND 50...READY, SET, GO! Conference was held on May 25, 2011. Texas First Lady Anita Perry was a keynote speaker at the event. The conference addressed job readiness, small business ownership, and skill building. Conference attendees received complimentary individual coaching sessions, head shot photos, and resource information. More than 400 women attended the event.

### Reason for Participation



“As a women over 50 and new to the job of searching for a job, the conference provided an opportunity to meet new contacts and educational resources. The break-out sessions were informative but, more importantly, offered a sense of support. I am so pleased that the commission recognizes that there were many women like me! We want to have jobs, give back to the community and strengthen our local economy! Thank you for your help”

—PMH

Current Work Status	Percentages
Haven't worked outside the home in at least 5 years	12%
Usually work, but currently unemployed longer than 1 year	16%
Usually work, but currently unemployed less than 1 year	15%
Working, but underemployed	8%
Working, but not happy, want a similar job, different company	3%
Working, but need additional income and looking for part-time work	7%
Working, but not happy. Want to change career paths	12%
Retired, need more income	8%
Looking for part time job to have more money	0.5%
Other	9%

# Assistance to Military Families

---

"Our veterans have willingly risked great personal harm to secure the rights and freedoms we cherish and to make the world a safer, more secure place to live. As they serve, or when they return home, they deserve an extra measure of assistance."

— **Governor Rick Perry**

---

## Operation Homefront

The Governor's Commission for Women donated \$5000 to Operation Homefront of Texas through our non-profit. Operation Homefront provides emergency financial assistance and support to the families of our service members and wounded warriors.

Operation Homefront provides direct services to alleviate the financial burden of our military, as well as counseling and/or recovery support. Emergency financial assistance is provided in the form of checks paid directly to mortgage lenders, hospitals, doctors, and other providers. The Texas branch of Operation Homefront gave 1.7 million dollars in support last year to military families in need.



*Beacon State Fund Board Members present a donation to Operation Homefront*



---

## Warrior and Family Support Center

On May 3, 2011 the Governor's Commission for Women toured the Warrior and Family Support Center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. The center opened in December of 2008 and is a 12,500 square foot facility that helps wounded soldiers and their families throughout the rehabilitation process. Many of the patients have recovery times of more than 12 months. With this in mind, the center works to support both soldiers and families during the process of recovery by providing counseling, affordable housing, and numerous other services. The Governor's Commission for Women, through our non-profit organization, made a donation to the Warrior and Family Support Center. For more information, please visit [www.bamc.amedd.army.mil/military/wfsc](http://www.bamc.amedd.army.mil/military/wfsc).

---

## 2-1-1 Assistance

Texas is home to more than 200,000 active and reserve service men and women, and the second largest number of military families in the country. In an effort to support military families, the Governor's Commission for Women sponsored a public service announcement to increase awareness about 2-1-1. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission established the 2-1-1 program to provide Texans with free, confidential referral services to connect people to resources in their local community. Phones are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide resources for housing, child care, food stamps, physical or mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, or employment information. The Commission partnered with TexVet and Texas First Lady Anita Perry to make this public service announcement.





**Texas Governor's Commission for Women**

**Post Office Box 12428**

**Austin, Texas 78711**

**Toll-free: (800) 839-5323**

**Phone: (512) 475-2615**

**Fax: (512) 463-1832**

**Email: [women@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:women@governor.state.tx.us)**

**Website: [www.governor.state.tx.us/women](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/women)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/texaswomen](http://www.facebook.com/texaswomen)**