

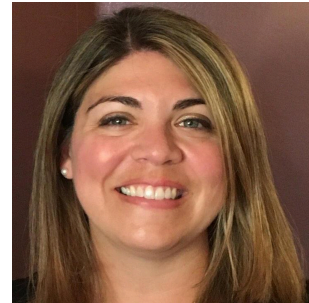
WPLN'S WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SPEAKERS

Rio Grande Valley

April 17, 2026 · Casa de Palmas
McAllen, TX

Larissa Martinez - Welcome & Opening Remarks

Larissa Martinez is Founder and President of Women's Public Leadership Network (WPLN). In this role, she uses her two decades of experience as a political strategist to help women across the country get involved in politics and be effective leaders. Larissa has worked on campaigns at every level, mainly for women candidates and she is the co-author of a children's book, "My Mommy Is a Candidate."



A political entrepreneur, Larissa also founded WPLN Action, Catalyst PAC, the Lion Leadership Fund and currently also runs Keeper Strategies LLC. Previously, Larissa served as a Senior Government Relations Professional at Invariant and worked as a senior advisor to three U.S. Senators. She has degrees from USC (MPA) and UGA (BAs). Larissa is also an Advisory Board Member, IRI's Women's Democracy Network; an AEI LN member; former member, Trump Presidential Transition Team, and Vice Chair, UGA SPIA Alumni Board.

Sarah Sagredo Hammond - Leadership Spotlight Panel: Pathways to Political Leadership Moderator

Sarah Sagredo Hammond is the President of Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Plumbing Services, Inc., a multi-generational family business that has served the Rio Grande Valley for over four decades.

Beyond her role at Atlas, Sarah is a prominent voice for women's economic empowerment and small business growth. She currently serves as the CEO for the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of South Texas and is the President of FemCity RGV, where she works to bridge the gap for emerging female entrepreneurs. Her background includes 17 years of experience in the legal field as a certified

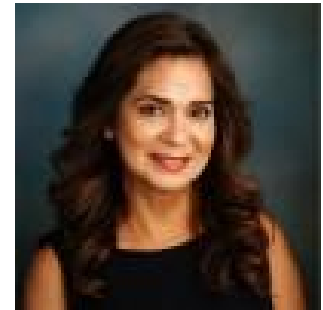


paralegal, as well as holding degrees in Finance and Real Estate from Texas A&M University.

A graduate of Leadership Texas 2020 and Leadership America 2023, Sarah is recognized globally for her leadership. She was featured in Amazon's Watch Magazine as one of the "Top 20 Global Women to Watch" and was named the 2014 Small Business Person of the Year for the RGV. She is also a published author, contributing to the leadership book UPWARD and the collection 100 Words / 100 Women.

Maribel Guerrero - Leadership Spotlight Panel: Pathways to Political Leadership Panelist

Maribel B. Guerrero, is the Director of Engineering and Public Works for the City of Brownsville, Texas, a historic appointment that makes her the first woman ever to lead this department in the City's history. Overseeing a team of more than 125 staff members and a department of 207 employees, she is responsible for the strategic planning and operations of all divisions under Engineering and Public Works, including Streets and Drainage, Traffic, Landfill, Stormwater, and Environmental Compliance.



With more than 25 years of experience spanning both the public and private sectors, Maribel has built a distinguished career in environmental compliance, infrastructure management, and public service. Her background includes the management of environmental assessments, water and wastewater projects, and transportation initiatives. Prior to her current role, she worked with Annova LNG, LLC and served as Assistant Director and then Deputy Director of Engineering and Public Works for the City of Brownsville, joining the City in 2021. She was appointed Director in 2025 following six months of distinguished service as Interim Director.

Maribel holds a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) in Public Administration from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She also represents the City of Brownsville on the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee. Known for leading with empathy, integrity, and a purpose-driven mindset, Maribel is deeply committed to delivering sustainable, innovative solutions that strengthen the communities she serves.

Deborah Cordova - Leadership Spotlight Panel: Pathways to Political Leadership Panelist

Deborah L. Cordova is a founding member and manager of Walsh McGurk Cordova Nixon, PLLC, a full-service law firm based in Edinburg, Texas. A native of the Rio Grande Valley who grew up in Mission, Deborah has dedicated her career to her community, practicing in the areas of real estate, corporate law, estate planning, and probate. She received her BBA in Accounting and her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law, and her MBA from the University of Texas Pan American.



A trailblazer in the Valley's legal and business community, Deborah made history in 2014 as the first woman ever to chair the Rio Grande Valley Partnership Chamber of Commerce in its 69-year history. She has served as President of the Hidalgo County Bar Association and the Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association, and has chaired both the Women's Bar Section of the Hidalgo County Bar Association and the Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is a Trustee of the Texas Bar Foundation and has served on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Deborah's commitment to education and civic leadership is equally distinguished. She serves as Board Chair for Teach For America Rio Grande Valley and is active on the boards of Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas and the Junior Service League of Mission. She was awarded Woman of the Year in 2016 by the citizens of Mission, received the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame honor from the City of Hidalgo in 2017, and was recognized as a New York Times Power Lawyer in 2021.

Morgan LaMantia - Leadership Spotlight Panel: Pathways to Political Leadership Panelist

Morgan LaMantia is a Rio Grande Valley native, attorney, and businesswoman with deep roots in South Texas. A sixth-generation Texan, she serves as In-House Counsel and heads data analytics for L&F Distributors, a family-owned beverage distribution company founded in McAllen that has grown to employ over 1,200 people across Texas and beyond. She also founded Retro Health, LLC, a healthcare initiative born out of her work developing an innovative employee health program at L&F that gives workers free access to primary care physicians and resources to manage chronic conditions such as diabetes.



Morgan earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin and her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. Her legal background spans business law, health care law, energy, and government and administrative law. Prior to her work in the family business, she gained experience as a lobbyist for the Railroad Commission and interned with a federal judge, developing a well-rounded understanding of both the private sector and the workings of government.

A committed community leader, Morgan has served on the Board of Directors of several nonprofits, including the Gladys Porter Zoo, and has been a longtime supporter of the STARS Scholarship Program, which has helped put college within reach for thousands of South Texas students. She was elected to the Texas Senate in 2022, becoming the first woman to represent Senate District 27, where she served on committees focused on education, health and human services, and state affairs.

Allison Castle - Leadership Presence: Public Presentation & Media Engagement

Allison Castle is the President and CEO of Castle Communications, a strategic consulting firm specializing in high-stakes public relations, crisis management, and executive positioning. With over two decades of experience at the intersection of media and public policy, she serves as a veteran advisor to leaders across the public and private sectors, helping them navigate complex communications landscapes and build authentic brand authority.



Prior to founding her firm, Allison served as the Director of Communications and Press Secretary for Governor Rick Perry, where she acted as a primary spokesperson and led the media strategy for the Governor's Office and the First Lady.

Her state service also includes tenures as the Senior Communications Director for the Texas Attorney General and Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), where she oversaw external relations and public education initiatives for one of the state's largest regulatory agencies.

Lucy Nashed Cafrelli - Leadership Presence: Public Presentation & Media Engagement

Lucy Nashed Cafrelli is Executive Director of the Lone Star Network, a 501(c)(4) dedicated to promoting the common-sense policies that have made Texas the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Prior to this, she served as the inaugural Chief of External Affairs at the Public Utility Commission of Texas, where she led a five-division team operating at the crossroads of key external audiences: utility customers, lawmakers and state leadership, media, and industry stakeholders.



She previously served as Communications Director for Texans for Lawsuit Reform, the most active state-based tort reform organization in the nation. Nashed Cafrelli has consulted for a variety of private sector clients and political campaigns, and served as communications director for Perry for President (2015) and press secretary in the Office of the Governor, where she helped highlight Texas' successful economic development and job creation efforts across the country and around the world.

Sara Marie Ridley - Getting Your Message Out, Numinar

Sara Marie Ridley is a Growth Strategist with Numinar, a tech political startup where she helps campaigns leverage data to drive meaningful engagement. Previously, she served as State Strategist for Majority Strategies, leading efforts for campaigns across Texas, New Mexico, and several other states.

Sara Marie's experience spans from the grassroots to the federal level, having served as Deputy Press Secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy under Secretary Rick Perry. With over a decade of experience in Texas politics, she is known for her ability to translate complex data into winning political strategy.



A Texas native, she earned her degrees from Fordham University in New York City. She now lives in West Austin with her husband, Brent, and their two sons, Danny and Jett.

Morgan Bonwell – Identifying Your Next Move After a Campaign Loss and Building, Maintaining & Utilizing Your Network

Morgan Bonwell is the Founder and CEO of Right Strategies. With over a decade in politics, she is an expert in grassroots and grass-tops campaigning.



Bonwell started her political career with the Republican Party of Iowa and has since worked on campaigns ranging from school board to the White House.

In 2023, Right Strategies was a Finalist for Best New Firm from Campaigns & Elections and won awards for Best Campaign Comeback and Best How-To Vote by Mail Piece for the 2024 cycle. Bonwell's individual accolades include being named an AAPC 40 Under 40 winner and receiving a Cygnal 30 Under Thirty Award as one of America's Rising Republican Operatives.

Outside of politics, Bonwell owns and operates a PR firm and vending business. She is the proud mom to Beau and Ellie and wife to Michael.

Michelle Phillips - Luncheon & Fireside Chat Host

Michelle Phillips joined the Lime Rock Resources team in 2023 as Vice President, Land. Michelle has over 18 years of industry experience working in basins across the continental U.S. and managing assets through all stages of development. She has previously served in management roles with responsibilities including both surface and mineral land issues.



Prior to Lime Rock Resources, she served as Director of Land at Callon, Land Manager at Hess Corporation, and Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota. Michelle is a graduate of Georgetown University (B.S. Management) and the University of Oklahoma (J.D. and M.B.A.). She is a licensed attorney in multiple states.

Anne Krause - Luncheon & Fireside Chat Speaker

Anne Krause serves as the Senior Vice President of Development for Texas 2036, spearheading all philanthropic efforts to advance the nonpartisan, non-profit organization's ambitious mission: advancing long-term, data-driven strategies to improve lives and expand opportunities for all Texans.

Previously, Anne was the President & Executive Director of the Hemisfair Conservancy, a role she held for over a decade after co-founding the organization in 2014. She led the Conservancy's philanthropic and federal funding initiatives, playing a pivotal role in the transformation of the historic 1968 World's Fair site into a world-class urban parks district in downtown San Antonio.



Anne's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science from the United States Air Force Academy, a Master of Arts from The University of Texas at Austin, and completion of a non-profit executive program at Harvard Business School.

Her professional journey began as an Air Force officer, where she learned to fly jets, led linguist operations during a volunteer deployment to Cuba, and served as Executive Officer for the USAF Thunderbirds demonstration team. After her military service, Anne transitioned to the non-profit sector, holding leadership positions in mission-driven organizations and consulting for a Fortune 200 company and a private family foundation on high-impact philanthropic strategies.

Anne's community and professional involvement reflect her dedication to service and leadership. She serves on the Southwest Research Institute's Board of Advisory Trustees. She is a former Board President of SA100 and the Alamo Heights School Foundation. An international public speaker and advocate for meaningful community engagement, Anne is also an active member of the Charity Ball Association of San Antonio, Harvard Business School Club of San Antonio, Leadership Women Texas, San Antonio Business Forum, and Texas Women's Forum | International Women's Forum.

Her civic contributions have earned her numerous honors, including the 2024 "The Lila" award for civic leadership, San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, the San Antonio Business Journal's 2023 Woman of the Year, and a place among the "Texas 100 to Watch in 2024." Anne and her husband, Paul, are proud parents of five adult children, including a former foster child.