

Helping Women Feel Good about Who They Are During Women’s History Month

The Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits and WHW celebrated National Women’s History Month by Empowering Women Seeking Employment in a National Event sponsored by Smart & Sexy

IRVINE, California, March 27, 2018 – The Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN), WHW, a local nonprofit and ACDN member organization, along with eleven (11) other ACDN member organizations hosted events in March throughout the United States aimed at helping women prepare for their journey to employment. On March 23rd, 2018, WHW, with the help of 22 Volunteers, hosted Smart & Sophisticated Day, an all-day event for 26 Job Seekers in honor of Women’s History Month. This event inspired the women, boosting their self-confidence so that they feel more assured and confident and, most of all, employable.

These annual events were first launched in 2012 by Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (formerly known as The Women’s Alliance) - a national organization of independent, community-based member organizations who provide career skills training and professional attire to unemployed and underemployed women and men - and sponsored by **Smart & Sexy**, one of the largest privately held lingerie companies in the country.

"Our member agencies help level the playing field for their clients, who lack the resources—either by not having the clothes in their closet or the money to purchase interview attire themselves—to present themselves competitively at an interview," says Connie Golds, Board President of the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits. "ACDN member organizations serve over 25,000 women and men each and every year, day in and day out assuring that everyone seeking self-sufficiency has an equal chance! Smart & Sexy Day events show women that they can be capable, feminine and employable."

As part of the celebration, WHW provided a day of workforce training, professional styling and individual support for the women with the goal of enabling them to take action, secure employment and enhance the quality of their lives. Women who attended WHW’s Smart & Sophisticated Day received a complete professional outfit including shoes and accessories, Smart & Sexy foundation garments from Smart & Sexy, grooming products and job seeking skills training from leading local industry professionals and dedicated volunteers. The impact of the day was to demonstrate how WHW, ACDN and Smart & Sexy support women in more ways than one. One Job Seeker wrote, "Thank you for helping to empower us as women and for giving us valuable tools to launch us forward on our new positive path of life, success and happiness. WHW provides an amazing wealth of knowledge, support and strength!"



Special programming, including free foundational garments from Smart & Sexy, were held in the following cities during the month of March:

- **Bottomless Closet (New York, NY) – March 13**
- **Career Wardrobe (Philadelphia, PA) - March 26**
- **Desert Best Friend’s Closet (Palm Desert, CA) – March 9**
- **Jackets for Jobs, Inc. (Detroit, MI) – March 21**
- **Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield Career Closet (Cranford, NJ) – March 20**
- **Ladies of Valor Empowerment (Miami, FL) - March 17**
- **Madelt Foundation (Baltimore, MD) – March 10**
- **Shining Success (Claremont, NH) – March 24**
- **Suited for Success (Oklahoma City, OK) - March 20**
- **Tailored for Success (Malden, MA) – March 27**
- **Transforming Lives & Restoring Hope, Inc. (Roanoke Rapids, NC) – March 17**
- **WHW (Irvine, CA) – March 23**



All Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN) Members received product from Smart & Sexy to give to their job seekers. For a full list of ACDN members, visit: www.acdnonline.org/locations.

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About WHW: WHW is a 501(c)(3) that provides the unemployed and underemployed the skills and resources they need to get and keep a good job. Since 1993, WHW has served over 90,000 job seekers referred by over 275 partner agencies at no charge. Each year thousands of job seekers participate in programs focused on making them the most marketable candidate for the job they seek. Programs include: Employment Readiness Workshops, Computer Training, Job Placement Assistance, Employment Retention Assistance and Professional Apparel. For more information on WHW and how you can support their job seekers, please visit www.whw.org.

About Smart & Sexy: Smart & Sexy was founded with the idea that women should be able to have fashionably sexy lingerie that provides figure solutions at great prices. Today, we are one of the largest privately held lingerie companies in the US, selling over 60 million garments a year under numerous national brands. Smart & Sexy is our in-house brand created for the fashion savvy woman. Smart fit, sexy and flattering looks, quality, comfort and amazing value are the brand's guiding principles. Smart & Sexy is the in-house brand for Ariela & Associates International which was founded over 20 years ago. Learn more: www.smartandsexy.com.

About the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN): The Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN) is the leading network of unique community based non-profits that empower women and men to achieve economic independence. ACDN fosters the creation and growth of community-based organizations that assist individuals to secure and maintain employment. We believe anyone who wants a job, should get one. All ACDN member organizations offer free professional clothing so job seekers can make a great first impression. Each year, member agencies of ACDN assist more than 25,000 women and men across the country transition into the workplace. The professional clothing, training, and coaching services provided by our member agencies help women and men coming out of poverty, welfare, and other dire circumstances prepare for and succeed in the workplace. Since ACDN's inception, over 300,000 women and men have been outfitted with interview attire. Learn more: www.acdnonline.org.

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