

HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

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United prepares terminal for takeoff

The airline's latest renovations include some high-tech features.

JOE MARTIN, 8A



COVER STORY

A+ in expansion

As Houston's private schools see a surge in admissions, land for expansion becomes a hot commodity. SECTION B



Father Kevin Storey, president of St. Thomas High School

DMSEL 03/12/16

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



The grass is greener for downtown complex

Allen Center's renovations plan to keep green space in mind. **CARA SMITH, 14A**

WATER WE WAITING FOR?

Houston could get its first Crystal Lagoon

This man-made water attraction would be the first of its kind in Houston. **PAUL TAKAHASHI, 12A**

OUT OF THIS WORLD



New nonprofit leader ready for liftoff

Space Center Houston's new CEO wants to take the organization to infinity and beyond. **BACK PAGE, 35A**

DEAL OF THE WEEK

Energy co. to pay \$540M

Following job cuts, this company owes millions for canceled contracts. **OLIVIA PULBINELLI, 4A**



WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

MEET HOUSTON'S UNSTOPPABLE FEMALE MOVERS AND SHAKERS SECTION 2



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HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Women Who 2016 INAUGURAL **HBJ** Mean Business

MAY 12-19, 2016 - SECTION 2



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WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

**WELLS
FARGO**



THE LIST

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LARGEST WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

RANKED BY LOCAL REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Rank	Company Name Contact Information	FY 2014 Local Revenue	Full-Time, Local Employees	Business Description	Top Local Executive(s)	Headquarters for Fiscal Year
1	Sun Coast Resources Inc. 6401 J. Cavallotti St., Houston, TX 77026 713-684-4600 suncoastresources.com	\$140 million	470	Wholesale petroleum products marketer	Kathy Lohse, CEO/president	Houston 1993
2	W. S. Bellows Construction Corp. 1366 Alford St., Houston, TX 77055 713-461-7132 wsbello.com	\$12.28 million	100	Commercial general contractor	Laura Bellows, president/owner	Houston 1938
3	Cenergy International Services LLC 11600 Crossroads Park Dr., Houston, TX 77063 713-955-6158 cenergyintl.com	\$80 million	138	Workforce solutions in the oil & gas industry	Aimee Swain, CEO aimee@energyintl.com Jim Peck, COO jim@energyintl.com	Houston 2007
4	Barrios Technology Ltd. 18443 Spock Center Mall, #100, Houston, TX 77058 281-280-1500 barrios.com	\$80.13 million	142	Engineering, software, and technical services	Serina Johnson, president/CEO serina.johnson@barrios.com	Houston 1980
5	Burnett Specialists 9808 Richmond, #800, Houston, TX 77042 713-977-4777 burnettspecialists.com	\$62.9 million	332	Staffing firm	Lee Burnett, president lee@burnettspecialists.com	Houston 1974
6	Mark III Systems Inc. 8600 E. Garvey Rd., #210, Houston, TX 77063 713-684-9530 markiii.com	\$60 million	24	IBM Power Business Partner: training IBM computer hardware, software, services and peripherals	Linda Powell, president linda@markiii.com Stan Wyrwicki, VP stan@markiii.com	Houston 1993
7	Cole Chemical & Distributing Inc. 1308 E. Dairy Ashford Rd., #450, Houston, TX 77077 713-465-0533 colechem.com	\$57 million	6	Chemical supplier and chemical supply chain manager	Doreen Cole, president/CEO doreen@colechem.com	Houston 1980
8	Primary Services LP 510 Post Oak Blvd., #520, Houston, TX 77027 713-459-7616 primaryservices.com	\$47.81 million	46	Provides full-service strategic recruiting and talent management solutions	Regina Mattingly, president/CEO regina@primaryservices.com	Houston 1988
9	Magnum Staffing Services 2900 South St., #2158, Houston, TX 77096 713-458-8888 magnumstaffing.com	\$42.85 million	42	Staffing firm	Caroline Brown, CEO/president caroline.brown@magnumstaffing.com	Houston 1994
10	The OFIS 7135 Old Katy Rd., Houston, TX 77024 713-429-9390 theofis.com	\$41 million	46	Real estate services retailer	Antonia Crummett, CEO acrummett@theofis.com	Houston 1983
11	Heritage Texas Properties 1277 W. Loop S., 12th Fl., Houston, TX 77027 713-227-9406 heritagetexas.com	\$31.76 million	67	Full-service, residential real estate brokerage	Rubin March, president/CEO rubin@heritagetexas.com	Houston 1975
12	Icon Information Consultants LP 160 N. Loop W., #300, Houston, TX 77007 713-438-0510 iconconsultants.com	\$23.28 million	47	Consultant labor supplier and business services for a variety of industries	Patricia D'Neve, president/CEO patricia@iconconsultants.com	Houston 1998
13	Wise Men Consultants Inc. 1308 E. Dairy Ashford, #285, Houston, TX 77077 281-479-4740 wisemen.com	\$20.5 million	228	Information technology integration consultancy	Debi Orsillo, president/CEO debi@wisemen.com Gopalakrishna, VP/operational	Houston 1997
14	The Sartin Team LLC¹ 1401 Westfields Pkwy., The Woodlands, TX 77380 713-724-8880 sartin.com	\$21.76 million	3	Residential real estate services	Suzanne Sartin, founder/realtor suzanne@sartin.com	The Woodlands 2014
15	Centre Technologies 4804 S. West Houston Pkwy., E. #100, Houston, TX 77060 281-346-2488 centretech.com	\$22.18 million	64	IT and managed services provider	Laura Pace, president laura@centretech.com Chick Pace, CEO chick@centretech.com	Houston 2004
16	Adcoatera 8000 Louisiana St., Houston, TX 77066 713-512-8006 adcoatera.com	\$21.75 million	87	Full-service advertising agency	Wendy Sackler, founder/CEO wendy@adcoatera.com George Salinas, CFO/creative services	Houston 1982
17	MMI Agency 1712 Reno St., Houston, TX 77003 713-629-4999 mmiagency.com	\$20.1 million	86	Advertising agency specializing in high-impact advertising for health and other companies	Chela Martin, president/founder chela@mmiagency.com	Houston 1986
18	J. Tyler Services Inc. 8828 Wilcox, Houston, TX 77062 713-468-2164 jtyler.com	\$19.12 million	37	Office furniture retailer	Jennifer Longstaffe, president jlongstaffe@jtyler.com	Houston 1982
19	The Richland Cos. 1118 S. Post Oak Rd., #170, Houston, TX 77055 713-682-5707 therichland.com	\$18.47 million	15	Real estate leasing, tenant representation, brokerage, property and asset management, investment and mortgage firm	Edna Major Nelson, president/CEO	Houston 1993
20	Keller Williams Premier Realty 2737 Westheimer Pkwy., #430, Katy, TX 77755 281-238-0100 kwpremier.com	\$11.18 million	6	Residential real estate brokerage	Kathy Gargant, associate broker/co- owner Kathy@kwpremier.com Judy Gargant, broker/co-owner judy@kwpremier.com	Katy 1982
21	Clum Acoustical Systems² 27889 Decker Place, Houston, TX 77233 281-310-9888 clumacoustical.com	\$9.7 million	38	Specialty subcontractor for interior commercial construction	Sandra Clum, president sandra@clumacoustical.com	Magnolia 1990
22	Excellibur Exhibits 7225 Briarwood Rd., #420, Houston, TX 77063 713-458-8853 excellibur.com	\$9.43 million	30	Exhibit manufacturing and production corporation	Rogge Swarth, president/CEO rogge@excellibur.com	Houston 1997
23	ExecuTeam Staffing 2402 Eastmanway Dr., #800, Houston, TX 77027 713-952-6766 executeam.com	\$9.49 million	17	Staffing firm	Aimee Flannery, founder/CEO aimee@executeam.com	Houston 1997
24	Mirador Custom Builders LP 3431 W. Albatross, #1, Houston, TX 77037 713-570-8932 miradorbuilders.com	\$9.15 million	4	Custom homebuilder	Jennifer Bennett, president/owner jennifer@miradorbuilders.com	Mark 2006
25	Corporate Staffing 14815 St. Mary's Ct., #101, Houston, TX 77079 713-789-1532 cstaff.com	\$8 million	80	Full-service staffing company	Alan Finch, president alan@corpstaff.com Joyce Ann Finch-Boyd, chairman joyce@corpstaff.com	Houston 1986

¹ The Sartin Team LLC is a corporate legal entity that operates as a team within Keller Williams Realty The Woodlands-Magnolia.

² CEO of Debrao Sun Cos.

+ CLOSER LOOK

This list originally ran Sept. 25, 2015, and is being reprinted to honor the business owners alongside our Women Who Mean Business finalists.

LARGEST EMPLOYERS

Sun Coast Resources Inc.	670
Barrios Technology Ltd.	342
Wise Men Consultants Inc.	320
W.S. Bellows Construction Corp.	160
Cenergy International Services LLC	158

FASTEST REVENUE GROWTH (2012-2014)

The Richland Cos.	92.7%
Wise Men Consultants Inc.	60.0%
ExecuTeam Staffing	47.7%
Mark III Systems Inc.	44.2%
Adcoatera	43.0%

ABOUT THE LIST

Information for The List was obtained from questionnaires completed by company representatives and HBJ research. Not all information could be independently verified by HBJ.

See more information and complete business descriptions for these companies online at www.bizjournals.com/houston/topic lists

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WANT TO BE ON THE LIST?

If you wish to be surveyed when The List is next updated or to be considered for other lists, send your contact information to Laura Furr at lfurr@bizjournals.com

LOOKING FOR MORE?

More information about the firms on The List, as well as all the many other lists, are available online at www.bizjournals.com/houston/topic lists



WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

FROM THE EDITOR



Giselle Greenwood

Editor-in-Chief
Houston Business Journal

Many have said Houston is a city of opportunity — that it doesn't matter where you come from, you'll make it if you work hard and persevere. Not only did these women work hard, but in many cases, they've had to work twice as hard to make it to where they are today. They've defied the odds when the odds were stacked against them. Our Women Who Mean Business finalists demonstrated strength of character, ingenuity and keen intellect. They absolutely mean business. There's no doubt about it.

With a city rich with character, our judges had to narrow down the list of finalists from almost 170 nominations, a process, they admit, was no easy task. Our finalists were selected based on their career achievement, contribution to company success, community involvement and leadership.

Congratulations to all of our Women Who Mean Business finalists and award winners. We are truly grateful to have you in Houston and among us as business leaders.



FROM THE SPONSOR



Darryl Montgomery

Greater Houston Region President,
Wells Fargo

Congratulations to the nominees and winners of the HBJ's 2016 Women Who Mean Business awards.

At Wells Fargo, our vision is to meet all our customers' financial needs, and help them succeed financially. We know we only prosper when the communities we serve are successful.

Houston is where more than 3,500 team members live, work and play, and we're dedicated to helping our city grow and prosper. It's where our roots are. So we feel responsible for being part of the growth and prosperity of Houston.

Yet no matter how big we are, we are a community bank. We share values that bind us as one team, working on behalf of our customers, our company and each other. At Wells Fargo, we want to be known as the best financial services company in the area. If we do this, by helping our customers succeed financially, the rest will take care of itself.



ON THE COVER

From left

Nory Angel, CEO, SER-Jobs for Progress
Kim Syma, Owner, Revolution Studio
Alfie Danziger, President and Founder, Integrate
Maria Rios, President, Nation Waste Inc.
Karee Laing, Owner, Studio Braed Collective

Photos by:
Daniel Ortiz

Editorial copy by:
Ana Goni-Llesan,
Special to the Houston Business Journal



WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

More about these women on page 10.

CYNTHIA COLBERT

President, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

NANCY LEVICKI

President, Dress For Success Houston

RUBY POWERS

Owner, Powers Law Group PC

JACKELYN VIERA ILOFF

Strategic advisor, Lakewood Church

EDNA MEYER-NELSON

CEO, The Richland Companies

PATRICIA MERCER

President, Houston SPCA (with Teddy and Benny)



"I started volunteering in the nonprofit sector at the ripe old age of 13 and found my calling in the animal protection field. Leading a nonprofit is challenging, but the feeling of contributing in some small - or even large - way to making an impact for those you serve is priceless."

PATRICIA MERCER, President, Houston SPCA



WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS



NONPROFIT

Jackelyn Viera Iloff

Strategic adviser, Lakewood Church

Education: University of Southern California

Affiliations: Interfaith Ministry Council; Elizabeth Dole Foundation, member; Greater Houston Partnership, member and council's participant; Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, member

Years in the industry: 32

Jackelyn Viera Iloff works with the largest church in the country. While she has worked with past presidents George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan and former Virginia Gov. George Allen, now she serves more than 40,000 people a week at Lakewood Church and Joel Osteen Ministries.

An strategic advisor and a minister for Joel Osteen Ministries, Iloff is not only in charge of community outreach, event planning and political briefings, she leads ministry and prayer with the church community. Iloff leads the teams that work on the Operation Hope Project, a two-day outreach initiative in cities across the U.S. that espouses Lakewood's teachings.

She also led the anti-human trafficking Hope & Freedom Walk-A-Thon, which raised money for medical care, education and job training for former sex workers.

"As a spokesperson of one of the largest churches in the nation, she has the platform that she has utilized to impact not only the church and its members, but the city and the greater surrounding area as well," said Jared Broussard, managing director of NextUp Texas.

In 2013, Iloff won the Outstanding Women in Business Award by Leaders Consulting Group.



NONPROFIT

Cynthia Colbert

President, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Education: University of California, Berkeley, Master's; California State University, Sacramento, Bachelor's

Affiliations: Stansfield Committee of Texas Catholic Charities, chair; Network of Behavioral Health Providers, board member and vice chair; Latin Women's Initiative, board member

Years in the industry: 25

It's not every day you get invited to speak at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, but for the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Cynthia Colbert, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, spoke about the value and importance of educating refugee women.

Since her arrival in Houston in 2002, Colbert has secured funding to expand mental health, immigration legal services and housing support for female veterans. She also created the annual INNOVATE Poverty Summit in 2014, which invited community and business leaders to collaborate to find ways to help low-income people find a way out of poverty.

Colbert created an environment of mentorship at the nonprofit and started the recognizing volunteers for their service through the Spirit of Charity and other awards. She also has spoken to students at the University of Houston and other schools about the value of working at a nonprofit.

"Houston is extremely fortunate to have recruited her to our fine city to work with such a worthy and significant nonprofit," said David Harvey, chairman and CEO of Harvey Builders. "She is definitely a woman who means business."

For more than 70 years, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has provided food, clothing, shelter and other resources to people in need, regardless of their religious affiliation.



FOR-PROFIT

Edna Meyer-Nelson

CEO, The Richland Cos.

Education: Southern Methodist University, Bachelor's; University of Houston and the University of Colorado, master's

Affiliations: National Association of Professional Women, American Business Women's Association, CREW, executive advisory board of the graduate real estate program at the UT Rousey College of Business

Years in the industry: 23

Edna Meyer-Nelson, CEO of The Richland Companies, says she's not too important to get her hands dirty. Meyer-Nelson pays attention to detail and spends time at properties in different cities, she inspects each property, searches for new opportunities and meets with clients, vendors and employees.

In 1983, Meyer-Nelson left the lending industry and partnered with Suzanne Klein to start The Richland Companies. Now the company is one of the largest woman-owned businesses in Houston.

"There [Meyer-Nelson] is a firm believer that women can be just as successful as men if they are well-informed, determined and don't back down," said Brittany Zucker, owner of Martini Marketing + Communication.

Meyer-Nelson shares her many years of experiences with her employees and other young professionals she meets in and outside of her work. She is known to have an open door policy if anyone needs advice.

She continues to mentor those she meets at speaking engagements, events and classes at Rice University and the University of Houston.

"She feels it is extremely important to take advantage of teachable moments and passes her knowledge on willingly," Zucker said.



NONPROFIT

Nancy Levicki

President, Dress For Success Houston

Education: Loyola University, BBA

Affiliations: Women's City Club, founder and past president; United Way Leaders Circle

Years in the industry: 18

Thanks to Nancy Levicki, Dress for Success does more than help women find a suit.

When Dress for Success saw a 70 percent increase of women coming in for its services in the first month after the nonprofit moved into its new building in 2012, Levicki saw a need for a space where women can come and learn about employment opportunities and other services.

She created the Professional Women's Group, a program to help women who have gained employment with job retention, career readiness and advancement. Women also have the opportunity to be a part of the Women2Women program, which partners employed women with newer members of the PWG program for mentorship, feedback and advice.

Since the nonprofit's inception, more than 50,000 women have been helped with their employment goals.

Many of the women that walk through Dress for Success Houston's doors are applying for jobs for the first time, said Stephen L. Klingberg, founding director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University. They are single moms with low incomes who struggle to pay the bills.

"I know of no other organization in this city that is more effective than DFSS in transferring the opportunities and the trajectories of underserved members of our community," he said.



WOMEN TO WATCH

Ruby Powers

Owner, Powers Law Group PC

Education: University of North Carolina School of Law, JD

Affiliations: Certified-Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization 2013; Houston Bar Association, Speaker Bureau Committee 2010-2016; Houston Bar Association, Professionals Committee 2013-2015

Years in the industry: 10

Lawyer Ruby Powers knows how to manage a successful law firm in Houston so well that she can expand her business all the way from Dubai.

Powers' law firm, Powers Law Group, has been one of the top firms for immigration and nationality law in Houston for years, winning H Magazine Houston's Top Lawyer in Immigration law in 2014 and 2015, as well being recognized as one of Houston's Magazine's Top Lawyers in 2013, 2014 and 2015. She was also rated a Super-Rated Attorney by AVVO in 2016 and was selected for the Leadership Houston Program for 2016-2017.

Powers knows what it means to overcome obstacles. Born in Mexico, Powers paid for college through part-time jobs, scholarships and loans. When her husband was relocated abroad for 14 months, Powers assumed all handling her solo practice with technology like cloud-based storage and Skype. She is also one of the youngest of the 104 lawyers who have passed the Texas Board of Legal Specialization Exam.

"Ruby never fails to amaze me in her ability to succeed despite any circumstances," said Melody Ray Price of Price Law Center.

Powers has made mentorship a staple in her life, helping other young attorneys and business owners with advice on immigration law or how to run a small business or law firm.



NONPROFIT

Patricia Mercer

President, Houston SPCA

Education: Johns Hopkins University, certificate in nonprofit management

Affiliations: Chairman of the board for Habitat Council on Pet Population, Advisory Board for Hill's Pet Nutrition, Harris County Disaster Animal Management Task Force

Years in the industry: 33

Since 1996, Patricia Mercer has helped the Houston SPCA increase the number of lives saved and reduce shelter admissions by 40 percent.

Mercer helped the organization move from a small shelter to the only animal protection center in the country to house all kinds of animals: cats, dogs, birds, lizards, rabbits, horses, exotic species and more.

But Mercer helps humans, too. She created the PetLife program to provide support to families fleeing from domestic abuse keep their pets. While families figure out their housing, their animals are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and given temporary boarding. The SPCA now works with 18 family violence shelters to help victims of abuse, including the furry family members, stay together.

She also created a partnership with the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences to help fourth-year students gain clinical experience by working at the SPCA.

As one of the early leaders of the Society of Animal Welfare Administration association, she has served on the board of directors multiple times and as vice president. Mercer is also a board member and board chair of the National Council on Pet Population.





FOR-PROFIT

Edna Meyer-Nelson

CEO, The Richland Cos.

Education: Southern Methodist University, bachelor's; University of Houston and the University of Colorado, master's

Affiliations: National Association of Professional Women, American Business Women's Association, CREW, executive advisory board of the graduate real estate program at the CT Bauer College of Business.

Years in the industry:
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The Richland Companies

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The Richland Companies would like to congratulate all 2016 Houston Business Journal Women Who Mean Business nominees and winners. It's an honor to be in your company.

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