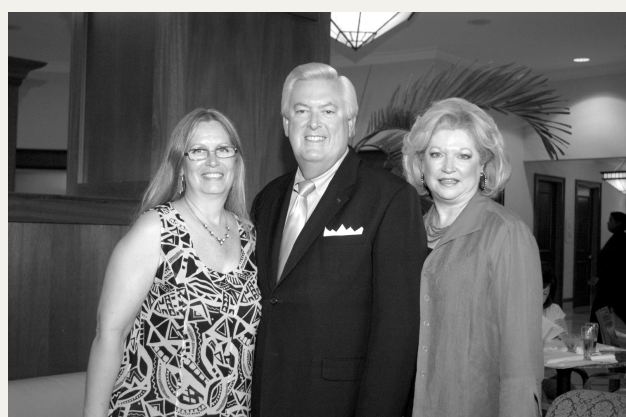


# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WBCS

SINCE THE BEGINNING, THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL - SOUTHWEST (WBCS) HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO FACILITATING AND STRENGTHENING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES, CORPORATE AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT.

1995

An initial group of Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) and 17 Dallas/Fort Worth corporations form the North Texas Women's Business Council (NTWBC) join to certify businesses who are 51% owned, operated, and controlled by one or more women.



1997

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is founded to establish a common WBE certification standard

Debbie Hurst joins as president of NTWBC

The Inaugural Parade of Stars Awards Gala is held

2000

NTWBC expands to a fourstate region and becomes the Women's Business Council-Southwest (WBCS)

2003

Through a memorandum of agreement with the Texas Comptroller, WBCS begins to screen applications for the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) designation

2005

The annual Lillie Knox Investment Award is established

2006

WBENC names WBCS "Partner Organization of the Year"



2015

WBCS celebrates its 20th anniversary

2017

WBCS moves its headquarters to Irving, Texas  
WBENC honors WBCS with its *ACTIntentionally* award

2020

WBCS celebrates its 25th Anniversary

The Champion Circle sponsorships are established, including 25th Anniversary Sponsors Toyota and CFJ Manufacturing

Due to COVID restrictions, WBCS transitions to virtual events

2018

WBCS sees 31% WBE certification growth in Austin, Texas and a 94% overall WBE retention rate for 2018

WOMEN'S  
BUSINESS  
COUNCIL  
—  
SOUTHWEST



2021

Debbie Hurst announces her retirement, and Bliss Coulter is selected as the new WBCS President & CEO



2022

WBCS transitions back to in-person events, starting with the 2022 Parade of Stars Awards Gala



WOMEN'S  
BUSINESS  
COUNCIL  
—  
SOUTHWEST