

# Nominee Details

<b>Person making the nomination</b>	
<b>Nominator:</b>	Margo Dover
<b>Street Address:</b>	Skillpoint Alliance
<b>City:</b>	Austin
<b>State:</b>	TX
<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>What is your affiliation with the person or organization you are nominating?</b>	Colleague at Skillpoint Alliance
<b>Nominee</b>	
<b>Award category:</b>	Bridge Builder
<b>Individual or organization/collaboration nominated:</b>	Carol Wright
<b>Contact Name (for Spirit of Collaboration Award only):</b>	
<b>Street Address:</b>	Skillpoint Alliance
<b>City:</b>	Austin
<b>State:</b>	TX
<b>Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Details:</b>	<p>Mother of 2, stepmother of 4, grandmother of 15 (11 of whom are girls) and wife to Daniel, Carol Wright believes in family and giving back to her community. Since moving to Austin over two decades ago, Carol has focused her professional life on ensuring that all students are exposed to the full range of education and career opportunities that await them in Central Texas. Carol worked for 11 years as Director of School-to-Career Programs for the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. And for the past 11 years, she has served as Skillpoint Alliance's Director of Education Programs. A true advocate for career and technology education, Carol was involved in laying the foundation for a number of enduring initiatives, including formalizing partnerships between industry and education, creating professional development activities for Central Texas educators that link the work of area businesses with classroom instruction, and an annual regional college and career expo for juniors and seniors. With these endeavors, as with everything Carol does, she quietly uses what and who</p>

she knows to improve programs for kids never caring for credit or recognition. The fact that these programs continue to thrive at Skillpoint Alliance speaks to Carol's effectiveness. Carol is a respected community and education leader and serves on numerous advisory boards, councils and committees. Carol serves on the Career & Technology Advisory Committees for Austin and Pflugerville ISDs. She is a member of the Women's Council of the African American Men and Boys, Women and Girls Conferences and frequently makes presentations at the Saturday conferences. Carol has volunteered for ten years and as chair for the last six for the Austin Area Heritage Council, coordinating the annual MLK Community Celebration. She also serves on KLRU's Community Advisory Committee, is an affiliate member of Leadership Austin and is actively involved with the Scholarship Committee at her church. Once a week for three years Carol has mentored a student at Webb Middle School via the Seedling Foundation's Youth of Incarcerated Parents program and she was recently nominated to serve on their board of directors. (In fact, as I complete this nomination form, Carol is making plans to attend her mentee's volleyball game tonight!) The breadth of these activities as well as the time commitment involved to do each of them as well as she does speak to Carol's commitment to her community, and especially our youth. She quietly, humbly, and effectively carries out her responsibilities, bringing to the organizations she serves her knowledge, her relationships and her passion and leaving them in a better position than she found them.

**What is special or special about what the nominee has accomplished to improve community conditions or promote community collaboration?**

Much of Carol's professional and volunteer work focuses on motivating students to understand that education is critically important to their success and helping provide real opportunities for that message to be delivered consistently by their teachers and industry and community leaders. What follows are three specific examples of the impact of Carol's determination to impart that message: Each year, Carol coordinates the delivery of programs for over 150 school counselors and teachers that allow them to interact with and learn from leaders in high demand, emerging industries. These professional development opportunities include industry site tours, hands-on activities and presentations from industry experts to help counselors understand the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level employment and help teachers develop compelling curricula that incorporate real-world, industry-related knowledge and skills into classroom learning. By giving

counselors and teachers tools to deliver instruction in such a way that answers a student's perennial question, "When will I ever use this?" students are much more likely to be engaged, learn the material and see the need for additional education beyond high school to obtain a good-paying job.

When Michael Lofton launched monthly conferences through the African American Men and Boys Harvest Foundation – conferences that educate youth and their parents about topics ranging from college financial aid to peer pressure – Carol immediately joined the effort to expand the reach of these potentially life-changing conferences to young girls and their mothers. From the beginning, Carol has been involved in the planning and delivery of monthly sessions targeting women and girls.

Carol has led the execution of the last 11 of 13 College and Career Expos for Central Texas juniors and seniors. The Expo not only provides information about education options after high school but also brings to the Palmer Events Center representatives from local industries that can inspire kids to consider careers they never knew existed. This year, even during our difficult economic times, Carol was able to bring over 90 exhibitors to interact with a record-breaking 4,000 students.

**Is there any other information that you would like to include to highlight why this nominee should be considered for this award?**

Writing about the enormity of someone's efforts to positively impact their community normally entails making a long impressive list. And in Carol's case that list is indeed long and impressive. However, it is not Carol's list or her willingness to assume positions of responsibility that are so impressive. Truly astounding is what is not on her list because she doesn't see the need to mention many of her efforts and accomplishments. Carol works and serves not for her own aggrandizement or gain but to help people realize their full potential. Carol is all about doing everything she can to benefit others, not herself. Carol wants every young person to have the best chance life has to offer, so she serves on school district career and technology committees to leverage the industry and educator relationships she has nurtured over 22 years in workforce development. She spends many evenings and Saturdays motivating students to study hard, attend college and find their passion when thinking about a career. Carol doesn't just mentor young girls from Webb Middle School; she invites them on her family's outings to Valero Beach and to join her granddaughters for slumber parties. She shares with them so much more than her time; she shares her heart and compassion, she shares her values and she shares her love. After over two decades of caring and

commitment to the youth of Austin, I simply cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Carol Wright. I am very proud to call her my colleague and my friend, and every day I learn from her example.