

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 16, 2023

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## **Chamber Executive Graduates from Professional Development Program**

Raquel Hammond, the Director of Finance at the Pearland Chamber of Commerce, was among the 19 chamber executives to graduate yesterday from Academy, a professional development program presented by the Western Association of Chamber Executives (W.A.C.E.).

Academy is an interactive 3-day (three-year) training program on chamber management essentials designed for today's chamber executives and staff professionals.

"We congratulate all of the graduates and their chambers for having the vision to invest in professional development," said W.A.C.E. President Dave Kilby.

"Raquel's drive to serve our members is seen in her commitment to high-quality training," said Pearland Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Jim Johnson.

During the three-year Academy program, graduates participated in 18 three-hour classes and must successfully complete additional independent study outside of the classroom.

W.A.C.E is an association of chamber of commerce executives and staff professionals designed to promote and enhance professional development. With over 800 members from twenty-one Western states and Canada, W.A.C.E. is the largest state or regional association of chamber of commerce executives in the United States.