

WE panelists underscore the benefits of mentoring

BOSTON — WE, Empowering Women to Advance Wellness, hosted a reception and panel discussion at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Total Store Expo here last month to highlight mentoring's role in promoting gender equality.

The panel was comprised of Chikako Amendola, director of channel strategy at Nature's Bounty Co.; Staci Cochran,

a senior buying manager at Walmart; Lauren Wittenberg, director of sales and Target team leader at the Emerson Group; and Kim Sines, senior vice president of sales at Hello Products.

Cochran related the story of a mentor she met at a social event in Bentonville, Ark., who also turned out to work at Walmart. Cochran was working in a support role at the time,

and the woman she met had a similar career path, and recommended that Cochran think about working in the core of Walmart's business by taking a job in merchandising or supply chain.

"Fast forward, I got into merchandising seven years ago, and I absolutely love it," Cochran said. "And I am so indebted to her for having that conversation with me." Cochran added that she continues to rely on that mentor, and is now also serving as a mentor herself.



Walmart's Cochran discusses the significance of mentoring.

H-E-B is recognized for engagement

BOSTON — H-E-B was honored for its political engagement during the Political Involvement Reception at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Total Store Expo.

H-E-B chief operating officer Martin Otto, a former NACDS chairman and a current NACDS board member, accepted the 2019 Politically Engaged Pharmacy Award, or PEP Award, on behalf of the company, in recognition of its exemplary leadership and participation in the NACDS Political Action Committee (NACDS-PAC). The award is presented to a company or individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the advancement of pharmacy through political engagement.

"Under the leadership of Martin Otto and his team, H-E-B helped to advance pro-pharmacy, pro-patient legislative priorities, exemplifying their steadfast commitment to these goals," said NACDS vice chairman Richard Ashworth, who is president of operations at Walgreens. Ashworth presented the award in his capacity as chairman of NACDS-PAC.

Showcase has many winners

BOSTON — Bringing new products to the attention of retail buyers was the National Association of Chain Drug Stores' goal in holding a Product Showcase at the association's Total Store Expo here last month.

Winners included:

- Baby Care — SpoonfulOne Daily Food Mix (Before Brands Inc.), a dietary supplement to acclimate a child's body to

food items responsible for food allergies.

- Consumables — High Noon Sun Sips Vodka and Soda (E.&J. Gallo Winery), a cocktail in a can.
- Cosmetics and Fragrances — Mascara Clump Cleaner (Headache Hat), a tool for removing excess clumps and gunk from a mascara brush.

- General Merchandise — Disney Princess Collection (Ameri-

can Greetings Corp.), an assortment of cards featuring favorite princess characters.

- Healthcare/OTC — Phazix Pill Swallowing Gel (ARKRAY USA Inc.), an aid to those who have difficulty swallowing tablets, capsules and powders.

- Home Healthcare — CONTOURNEXT ONE Smart Meter & App System (Ascensia Diabetes Care).