

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh 2009 ATHENA Award Finalists Announced

Recipient to be honored Monday, September 21

(Pittsburgh, PA – Tuesday, August 4, 2009) The results are in – seven of the Pittsburgh region’s prominent women leaders have been named 2009 ATHENA Award finalists. These women will be recognized for their professional excellence, contributions to the community and mentorship of other women at the 19th annual ATHENA Award Program Luncheon, presented by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development on Monday, September 21. There, one of the finalists will receive the 2009 ATHENA Award.

Last year’s luncheon drew more than 800 attendees – making the Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award Program Luncheon one of the largest stand-alone events of its kind in the world, among more than 500 communities across the globe that present the award each year.

The 2009 finalists, selected among 46 impressive nominees, compose a varied and distinguished group; each woman using her leadership to create professional excellence and positive regional impact. They are:

- **Shirley Anderson**, Owner & President of Shirley’s Beauty Mark, Inc.;
- **Georgia Berner**, President & CEO of Berner International;
- **Mary Ann Dunham**, Shareholder from Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC;
- **Dusty Elias Kirk**, Partner from Pepper Hamilton;
- **Audrey Murrell**, Associate Professor & Director of the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership from the University of Pittsburgh;
- **Teresa Petrick**, President & CEO of UPMC Passavant; and
- **Deborah Rice**, Executive Vice President Health Services from Highmark Inc.

“For nearly two decades, our ATHENA program remains unique among other local recognitions for professional women leaders because of its emphasis on mentorship, and in particular, assisting other women in reaching their full leadership potential. These finalists are cultivating the next generation of professional and community leaders, while leading by shining example,” said Barbara McNeese, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference.

“We were pleased with both the quality and quantity of the nominations this year, which made it a challenging process to select the finalists. These women are inspiring businesswomen and change-makers. Whether it is entrepreneurship, manufacturing, health care or law, these women are pre-eminent in their fields while never losing sight of the importance of a strong community,” said Cynthia Baldwin, Partner with Duane Morris and chair of the ATHENA Award Selection Committee.

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The 2009 recipient, chosen by a 15-member selection committee based on criteria developed by ATHENA International (www.athenainternational.org), will receive a 14-inch, hand-cast bronze sculpture; a diamond ATHENA pendant; and a trip to next year's ATHENA International Conference in Chicago. The award is named after the Greek goddess of strength and wisdom, traits considered when reviewing the nominations.

Tickets for the luncheon can be purchased online (www.ATHENA-Pittsburgh.com) or by calling 412.392.4555, ext. 3560.

The Pittsburgh ATHENA Award is presented with support from the Eden Hall Foundation, EQT, UPMC Health Plan, PNC, FedEx Ground, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, Schneider Downs & Company, Inc., Southwest Airlines, the *Pittsburgh Business Times*, WTAE-TV Pittsburgh, and WDUQ-FM 90.5.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.alleghenyconference.org.

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