

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh 25th Anniversary ATHENA and ATHENA Young Professional Award Finalists Announced

Recipients to be honored at luncheon on Friday, Oct. 9

(PITTSBURGH – July 27, 2015) The results are in: five of the Pittsburgh region’s prominent women leaders have been named 2015 Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award finalists. They will be recognized for their professional excellence, contributions to the community and mentorship of other women at the 25th Annual ATHENA & Young Professional Awards Luncheon, presented by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development on Friday, Oct. 9 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. At the event, one finalist will become the recipient of the 2015 ATHENA Award.

The 2015 ATHENA finalists, selected from among a record 49 nominees – a record-setting numbers – compose a varied and distinguished group. Each woman uses her leadership to create professional excellence and positive regional impact. The finalists are:

- Lynn M. Banaszak, executive director, Disruptive Health Technology Institute, Carnegie Mellon University
- Doris Carson Williams, president & chief executive officer, African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA
- Lisa Lenihan, United States magistrate judge, United States District Court for the Western District of PA
- Rhonda Moore Johnson, senior medical director of health equity & quality services, Highmark Inc.
- Lucille Prater-Holliday, founder, Black Women’s Empowerment Institute

The ATHENA Young Professional Award (AYPA) will also be presented to a woman 35 years of age or younger who exemplifies the qualities of ATHENA with an emphasis on being a role model. This is the fifth year for the AYPA and also a record year with 29 nominations. The 2015 AYPA finalists are:

- Josie Badger, youth development director, PEAL Center
- Meredith Meyer Grelli, co-founder and co-owner, Wigle Whiskey
- Aurora Sharrard, vice president of innovation, Green Building Alliance

Last year’s luncheon drew nearly 900 attendees, securing the Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award Luncheon’s status as the largest stand-alone event of its kind in the world, among the 500-plus communities around the globe that present the award each year.

Tickets for the luncheon can be purchased online at ATHENA-Pittsburgh.com.

The Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA & AYPA Awards Program is made possible by support from UPMC Health Plan; Citizens Bank; KPMG LLP; Jones Day, *Pittsburgh Magazine*; PPG Industries, Inc.; Williams; WTAE-TV; Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC; Carnegie Mellon Leadership and Negotiation Academy for Women; Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.; The Ellis School; and Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP.

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The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, LLC 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 AlleghenyConference.org.