

**For Immediate Release**

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**Diane Holder Receives ATHENA Award;  
Amelia Papapetropoulos Receives ATHENA Young Professional Award**

**(PITTSBURGH – Sept. 29, 2014)** Diane Holder, president and CEO of UPMC Health Plan, received the 2014 *Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Award* today at the ATHENA Awards luncheon at the Westin Convention Center Hotel.

Convened by the [Allegheny Conference on Community Development](#), the event is in its 24<sup>th</sup> year of recognizing women for professional excellence, contributions to the community and mentorship of other women.

Named for the Greek goddess of strength and wisdom, the [ATHENA awards](#) are unique among regional honors for professional women because of the focus on developing the next generation of leaders through mentorship.

Described as a woman with “grit, courage and balance,” Holder has led UPMC’s insurance division, as well as strategic and business operations, for 15 health-related insurance and health management companies. She focuses on helping people live longer, healthier lives and advocating for good health for all members of the community. Holder serves on numerous boards, mentors groups and individuals, and lends her support and guidance to the Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Women Work and Standing Firm, among other organizations. She is a mother of three children.

“Through their examples, inspiration and mentorship, ATHENA Awards recipients make a difference for countless women from many walks of life,” said Allegheny Conference Chief Financial Officer Janel Skelley. “That’s what distinguishes such ATHENA award recipients as Diane Holder, who today joins the ranks of 23 other remarkable women we’ve been privileged to recognize with this award.”

The other 2014 finalists, chosen from among 25 nominees, were:

- Linda Croushore, Executive Director, The Consortium for Public Education;
- Susan Kirsch, Shareholder-Tax Advisory Services, Schneider Downs;
- Karen Larrimer, Chief Customer Officer and Chief Marketing Officer, PNC; and
- Suzy Teele, Chief Operating Officer, SnapRetail.

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Recognizing a leader age 35 and younger is the *ATHENA Young Professional Award*. Begun in 2011, this award celebrates excellence among the growing population of younger women who will be the changemakers of tomorrow. Recognized as one such individual with the 2014 ATHENA Young Professional Award is Amelia Papapetropoulos, Sales Manager, Lightning Energy Services.

As founder of Young Professional Women in Energy, Papapetropoulos works for equity and greater visibility for women in that sector. She is a serial entrepreneur, president of Amelia's Elegant Catering and developer of fire-resistant clothing for women fieldworkers. She is a member of the region's Young Professional Board for Junior Achievement, an evaluator at the University of Pittsburgh's national entrepreneurship completion and has been named one of *Pittsburgh Magazine's* "40 Under 40." She is a contributing author to the book *Empower! Women's Stories of Breakthrough, Discovery and Triumph*.

The other 2014 ATHENA Young Professional Award finalists, chosen from among 25 nominees, were:

- Stephanie Garbe Compliance Senior Specialist, PNC; and
- Sabrina Saunders, Executive Director, Strong Women Strong Girls.

Said 2014 ATHENA Host Committee Chair Beth Marcello: "I am proud to be part of a community that demonstrates such tremendous support for women in leadership. Nearly 900 guests gathered to recognize these remarkable nominees, finalists and recipients and to celebrate how women are significantly shaping Pittsburgh's future. Women are most definitely making their mark on this region."

The Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Awards Program Luncheon is one of the largest stand-alone events of its kind among some 500 presented annually across the globe in affiliation with [ATHENA International](#).

The program is made possible thanks to Presenting Sponsors UPMC Health Plan; Citizens Bank; KPMG LLP; FedEx Ground; *Pittsburgh Magazine*; Williams and WTAE-TV Pittsburgh's Action News.

Thanks also to Sponsors Bayer MaterialScience; Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC; Carnegie Mellon Leadership and Negotiation Academy for Women; Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, PC; The Ellis School; Fox Rothschild, LLP; Meyer Unkovic & Scott LLP; NEXTpittsburgh; PPG Industries, Inc. and The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. **Learn more at [Athena-Pittsburgh.com](#).**

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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 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](#).