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Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Awards Finalists Announced
Regional women who lead through mentorship to be honored at Oct. 5 luncheon

(PITTSBURGH – August 1, 2018) Eight women – five seasoned leaders in financial and business services, human resources and the non-profit community – and three emerging professionals from Pittsburgh’s for-profit and non-profit sectors – have been chosen by an independent selection committee, comprising a diverse slate of community leaders, as finalists for the 2018 ATHENA Awards Program of Greater Pittsburgh.

These finalists will be among the nominees recognized for their professional excellence, contributions to the community and mentorship of other women at the annual ATHENA Awards luncheon on Friday, Oct. 5. The awards are presented by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development at the Westin Convention Center Hotel, Downtown Pittsburgh. One finalist from each category – the traditional ATHENA Award and the ATHENA Young Professional Award – will be honored at the event.

The traditional ATHENA Award finalists form a diverse and distinguished group. Each leverages her leadership to create professional excellence and positive regional impact. They are:

- Lisa Allen, CEO, Ziegenfelder
- Tacy Byham, Chief Executive Officer, DDI
- Tracy DeCock, Senior Relationship Manager/Managing Director, PNC Financial Services Group
- Casey Ryan, Global Head of Legal Personnel, Senior Management Team Member and Partner, Reed Smith LLP
- Lisa Scales, President and CEO, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

The ATHENA Young Professional Award will be presented to a woman age 35 or younger who exemplifies the traditional ATHENA qualities, with an emphasis on being a role model. The finalists are:

- Valerie Faust, Founder and Executive Director, Blossom & Flourish: Growing Girls to Greatness
- Toni Murphy, Vice President, Business Services, Comcast – Keystone Region
- Renée E. Williams, Executive Director, Laurel Legal Services, Inc.

A complete list of nominees can be found at ATHENA-Pittsburgh.com.

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Also at the luncheon, ATHENA officials will recognize Aleya Jennings, the recipient of the third annual Barbara McNeas Spirit of ATHENA Scholarship. Jennings is AVP, Group Account Director at the Gatesman Agency. Named for the ATHENA program's founder and retired president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce – an Allegheny Conference affiliate – the scholarship covers the tuition for the Carnegie Mellon Leadership and Negotiation Academy for Women.

The Greater Pittsburgh ATHENA Awards luncheon has drawn as many as 900 attendees, making it among the largest stand-alone events of its kind among the 500-plus communities around the globe that present ATHENA awards. Tickets for the luncheon can be purchased [here](#) or at ATHENA-Pittsburgh.com. Sponsorship inquiries may be directed to Sara Gaal at sgaal@alleghenyconference.org.

The ATHENA Awards Program of Greater Pittsburgh is made possible by support from UPMC Health Plan; Citizens Bank; KPMG LLP; WTAE, Channel 4; Williams; Fort Pitt Capital Group; Media Quest; *Pittsburgh Magazine*; Accenture; BNY Mellon; Carnegie Mellon Leadership & Negotiation Academy for Women; Covestro LLC; Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP; Reed Smith; Schneider Downs & Co., Inc.; and The Ellis School.

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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 improve the economy and the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at AlleghenyConference.org.