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Celebrating Buffalo Niagara's Exceptional Women

28th Annual

ATHENA AWARDS[®] LUNCHEON



Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Presented by



Produced by



THANK YOU STEERING COMMITTEE

Thank you to our amazing steering committee members who have been an invaluable part of the ATHENA Awards® process.

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ATHENA AWARD® PAST RECIPIENTS

The Partnership is honored to be hosting the 28th Annual ATHENA Awards® Luncheon - the region's most prestigious event recognizing the professional accomplishments of exceptional individuals dedicated to the advancement of women.

1989

Karen Makowski,
KeyBank, N.A.

1990

Mary Martino,
Canisius College

1991

Mary Ann Lauricella,
Lauricella Public Relations Co.

1992

Christeen Kanowski (deceased),
Merchants Mutual Insurance

1993

Elizabeth Cappella,
Buffalo State College

1994

Cindy Vastola,
Vastola Heating & Air Conditioning

1995

Nancy Nielsen M.D., Ph.D.,
Buffalo General Hospital

1996

Linda Duch,
KeyBank, N.A.

2018 ATHENA LEADERSHIP AWARD® FINALISTS

The ATHENA Leadership Award® honors exceptional individuals who have achieved the highest level of professional excellence, contribute time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community, and actively assist others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential.

Dr. Catherine Collins

NYS Board of Regents | NYS Education
Department



Dr. Catherine Collins was elected by the New York State Legislature to the Board of Regents in 2015 for a five-year term representing the 8th judicial district. She is also program host for the Women's Health Radio show – founded by her in 2011 – that airs on 1400 AM in Buffalo Niagara every other Saturday with a focus on women's health issues and wellness. Dr. Collins is currently an adjunct professor at Niagara University and was previously an associate professor at Empire State College.

Throughout her career, Dr. Collins has held positions in health care and education administration including school nurse, practical nursing instructor and director of a registered nursing program. She also served as Executive Director of University at Buffalo Offices of Preparatory Programs, and as coordinator/instructor at the Educational Opportunity Center's certified nursing assistant program. Dr. Collins has written and/or edited 13 books, including academic, self-help books for women. She recently completed her first children's book, "Bullying Its Elementary: Eve and Jessie".

Nancy Cox

Partner | Bonadio Group

Nancy Cox is a partner in the Bonadio Group, a Western New York CPA firm offering a range of financial and consulting services such as auditing and tax, accounting, business advisory, and financial services. Working in the firm's commercial division, Nancy serves a variety of clients including auto dealerships, hotels and real estate development companies.

A native of Pittsburgh, Nancy is an active volunteer in the Buffalo Niagara community, helping numerous groups such as Child & Family Services and the Family Justice Center of Erie County. She is also a graduate of Leadership Buffalo and an active member. Residing with her husband and two children in Hamburg, Nancy is a member of the Frontier Central School District Audit Committee, the Board of Directors for the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and is on the Advisory Committee for the Hamburg School District Academy of Finance.



Reetuparna Dutta

Partner | Hodgson Russ LLP

Reetuparna "Reena" Dutta is a partner in the law firm Hodgson Russ LLP where she specializes in white collar criminal defense and government and internal investigations. She says she works with people in extremely difficult circumstances – sometimes the biggest challenges of their life. Criminal prosecutions or investigations by the government and litigation with people who used to be friends, are examples of extremely difficult situations that she commonly encounters with clients. Reena takes the opportunity with each client to help by offering hope, comfort, and solutions.

As a board member for the United Way, Reena spearheaded the creation of Next Generation United (NGU) – a group that engages young professional to make tangible differences in the community. NGU has awarded thousands of dollars to up-and-coming non-profit organizations via a community engagement model. The success of NGU has led Reena to create an initiative to increase the engagement of immigrant/minority communities in the area in philanthropic endeavors.



Nadine Hartrich

Operations Manager | Buffalo Manufacturing Works

Operations Manager, Buffalo Manufacturing Works Nadine Hartrich is Operations Manager at Buffalo Manufacturing Works where she oversees the organization's three primary technical teams including: Additive Manufacturing; Advanced Automation; and Materials & Testing.

Nadine earned her B.A. from the University of Buffalo, a certificate in Comparative Political and Economic Systems from Georgetown University and a M.S. in International Business from D'Youville College.

Nadine is active in the community serving on The Foundry Board of Directors, Girls Education Collaborative (GEC) Ambassadors Council, Member of Hudson Street Revitalization, SPCA Paws of Love Program, SPCA Educational Barn and CFGB's 21st Century Fund.



Katie Krawczyk

Partner & President | 19 Ideas

Katie Krawczyk is partner and president of 19 IDEAS, a New York State Woman-Owned Business in Buffalo offering a full range of marketing and communications services and expertise. Katie started the company with one employee – herself – and grew the business into a full-service agency for marketing, public relations, design, and web and software development.

A Leadership Buffalo graduate, Katie's numerous board memberships throughout her career include Persistence Preparatory Academy (she is a founding board member of this new K-8 charter school coming to Buffalo's East Side); the Eric Wood Fund; International Institute of Buffalo; Women's Business Center at Canisius College; and Hasek's Heroes. She has also been involved in many community events including Startup Weekend Buffalo and Social Media Day Buffalo.



2012

Mary Harley Gresham, Ph.D., University at Buffalo
Katie McKenna, Tops Markets

2013

Lynne Marie Finn, Superior Group
Bridget O'Connell, Child & Family Services

2015

Mary Ann Coulson, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
Shannon Linehan, Journey's End Refugee Services

2016

Amy Habib Rittling, Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedmann, LLP
Bridget Niland, Daemen College

Mary Owusu

VP, Analytics and SEO | Mower
(formerly Eric Mower + Associates)

Mary Owusu is partner and vice president of analytics and SEO in the Buffalo office of Mower, one of America's largest, privately held, full-service advertising and marketing agencies. She is also a professor of marketing at the Wehle School of Business at Canisius College where she teaches "SEO, SEM & Analytics" and "Principles of Marketing" at the MBA and undergraduate levels.



Born in Kumasi, Ghana, Mary has served as marketing lead for nine years for Future in Our Hands-USA (FIOH-USA), a non-profit organization that funds sustainable projects for families in Kenya and Tanzania. She is also a Member and Mentor for the Digital Analytics Association an international association for the digital analytics and data science fields. Through the program, she actively coaches and mentors female analysts across the world. In addition, she is currently serving her third year as board member of her alma mater, Mount Saint Mary Academy, working to elevate the potential of students attending this all-girls high school.

Whitney Walker

Executive Director | VOICE Buffalo and NOAH

Whitney Walker is executive director of VOICE Buffalo, a local faith-based organization dedicated to making certain that people from all walks of life can access living wage jobs, quality schools, and full participation in charting the direction of the community. Before joining VOICE Buffalo, she was with the Mobile Safety-Net Team of the John R. Oishei Foundation where she worked on issues such as domestic violence, workforce development, substance abuse, and food access.



A native of eastern North Carolina, Whitney's volunteer and community involvement are extensive. She co-founded and was former board president of FBITES – Food Based Interventions Transforming Empowered Students. This non-profit that uses culinary instruction as a vehicle to develop leadership, professional skills, as well as college and career readiness in youth and adults. She is also board secretary of Ade Jembe Fola, a community organization in Buffalo that offers in-school and after-school programming in a variety of subjects.

2017

Norma Nowak, Ph.D., Executive Director, UB NYS CBLS | Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Empire Genomics LLC.

Melodie Baker, Director of Education, United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Now is the time to reserve your seat in the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's leadership development programs. Monthly, two-hour morning sessions, offering industry exclusivity and confidentiality, our unique peer to peer professional development programs include:

EXECUTIVE EXCHANGE

Geared for senior level executives to meet, share experiences and resolve business challenges. Suitable for presidents, business owners, C-Suite and senior managers. Three professionally facilitated groups.

LEADER → ← EXCHANGE

A focused program designed for developing managers. If you are a leader with at least seven years of business, industry or professional experience and manage at least one person, you qualify. Due to the success of the Leader Exchange program, we are launching a new group in September 2018.



INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION?

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Buffalo Niagara Partnership 716. 541.1766

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