



NASHVILLE ATHENA AWARDS

MARCH 22, 2018

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ABOUT THE ATHENA AWARDS PROGRAM

Each year during Women's History Month, Nashville joins more than 500 communities throughout the world to honor exceptional women leaders through the ATHENA Leadership Awards Program. In Middle Tennessee nearly 50 women are nominated each year for special recognition as the embodiment of the Goddess Athena's spirit. Nominees each exemplify leadership, superior performance, commitment to community and unselfish assistance to women and women's issues.

The Nashville ATHENA Leadership Awards Program in its 28th year is a part of ATHENA International. This international movement was founded in 1982 by Martha Mayhood Mertz on the basis that "if women's strengths and contributions as leaders were publicly acknowledged, they could no longer be dismissed." Locally, ATHENA has awarded over \$125,000 in scholarships and honored over 700 deserving local women for their accomplishments. Internationally, ATHENA has presented over 8,000 awards in more than eight countries.

The Nashville ATHENA Awards

March 22, 2018

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Chair: *Roxianne Bethune* | Co-Chair: *Andrea Perry*

PROGRAM

Welcome- Mayor Briley

Acknowledgement of the 2018 Patrons Society Members

Recognition of 2018 Leadership Team

Presentation of the ATHENA Scholarship Recipients

Nashville ATHENA Chair Roxianne Bethune

Recognition of Young Professional Leadership Award Nominees

Presentation of the 2018 Young Professional Leadership Award

2017 YP Leadership Award Recipient Dr. Tameka Winston

2018 Young Professional Leadership Award Recipient Remarks

Recognition of ATHENA Award Nominees and Video

Presentation of the ATHENA Award

Recipient Pat Shea

The 2018 ATHENA Award Recipient Remarks

Reception

Welcome to the 28th Annual Nashville ATHENA Awards Program!



Since the program's inception, more than 7,000 awards have been presented. Nashville joins in that salute with over 500 communities in eight countries to celebrate and recognize women, who have achieved the highest level of professional excellence; women who have contributed time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community. ATHENA embodies the spirit of generosity and exemplifies the heart and soul of the leadership that encompasses the basic tenets of relationships, courageous acts and giving back to others particularly to women.

Tonight, we honor 20 accomplished and amazing women as 2018 ATHENA nominees. These women uniquely embody the spirit of Athena, goddess of wisdom and inspiration who have given their lives to service the community. They each have attributes that are reflective of women's contributions to leadership: living authentically, learning constantly, advocating fiercely, acting courageously, fostering collaboration, building relationships, giving back and celebrating. This illustrious group of women deserves the highest praise for the many personal and professional contributions to the Nashville community.

Tonight, we also hope to inspire and encourage the next generation of women leaders. We celebrate 18 Young Professional Leadership Award nominees. These young women emerging leaders, all under 40, have demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in their chosen professions. They also each provide valuable service; contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community and serving as role models for others both personally and professionally.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as chair of the Nashville ATHENA Awards Program this year. It would not have been possible without "The ATHENA Team", an incredible group of volunteers. The committee members are all rock stars! I am so thankful for my cherished friend and co-chair Andrea Perry. She has been amazing to work with, and I have greatly appreciated her commitment, passion, resourcefulness and humor throughout this process. The ATHENA program next year is in very capable hands. The ATHENA team did all the heavy lifting; if you see or meet any one of them, please give express your gratitude for their unselfish commitment.

On this night, eight very inspiring young women will receive scholarships thanks to our incredible scholarship sponsors and the ATHENA Patrons Society members. We would like to thank our ATHENA Sponsors and In-kind Sponsors. The success of the ATHENA Awards Program is because of you and your generosity -Thank you!

*Congratulations to all of tonight's nominees and scholarship recipients.
Thanks to everyone for attending and please make it a special night for all the nominees.*

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxianne Bethune". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

*Roxianne Bethune
Nashville ATHENA Chair*

2018 ATHENA LEADERSHIP TEAM



Committee Leadership
ATHENA
Chair
ROXIANNE BETHUNE



ATHENA Co-Chair
and Participating
Organizations Chair
ANDREA PERRY

Alumnae co-chairs,
PATRICIA SMITH AND BEVERLY WATTS

Audit chair,
LAURANETTE FORD

Finance chair,
JAN MADDOX

Graphic Design chair,
LEIGH WILLIAMS

Logistics co-chairs,
KATIE BRADY AND HEIDI TIESLAU

Nominee Gifts chair,
KRISTY HICKSON

Nominees and Judges chair,
ANN PARKER

Public Relations and Marketing chair,
KERRIE-TAYLOR LEECH

Patrons Society co-chairs,
AT PIERCE AND YVONNE WOOD

Scholarship co-chairs,
LENA SALORIO AND JOANIE HATCH

Sponsorship Development co-chairs,
USAN HUGGINS AND VERONICA MARBLE JOHNSON

Volunteers chair,
TERI POWELL

Young Professional Nominees co-chairs,
HART HARRISON AND DR. KATHERINE BROWN

CARA AARON

Nominated by: National Association of Women Business Owners, Nashville Chapter



BURKLEY M. ALLEN
Senior Manager, Kraft CPAs

Cara Aaron is a certified public accountant (CPA) and senior manager in the Assurance Services department at Kraft CPAs, one of Nashville's largest CPA firms. In her role, Cara performs audits, reviews and compilations for her clients primarily in the healthcare industry and employee benefit plan area to ensure their financial statements comply with accounting principles. A native of Warren, Ohio, Cara moved to Nashville in 1998 to pursue a career with one of the "Big Four" accounting firms, Ernst & Young, where she worked for 12 years and managed all benefit plan audits for the Tennessee Ernst & Young offices.

Cara is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she serves on the General Council, Employee Benefit Task Force and the Continuing Professional Education Events committee. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri.

Since moving to Nashville, Cara has become involved in many local women's organizations including the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance, Junior League of Nashville and Nashville CABLE. She currently serves as treasurer on NAWBO's Board of Directors.

Cara volunteers for several organizations in the Nashville area including Fannie Battle School for Children, Nashville Rescue Mission and Long Hollow Baptist Church. She also volunteers her time on the board of Learning Matters, serving as treasurer.

Cara has two children in their twenties and enjoys reading and dining at the many wonderful restaurants in the Nashville area with friends and family.

My favorite thing about Nashville is the people. Because there are so many that move here, people seem friendlier and it's easy to make connections.

ELAINE BOYD

Nominated by: Nashville Women's Breakfast Club



ELAINE BOYD
Senior Advisor, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Elaine's career has focused on project management, process improvement and performance excellence, leading department-wide efforts in Lean process improvement and Baldrige performance excellence. She serves as the Commissioner's Designee on the Water Quality, Oil and Gas Board and has been a member of the Board of Examiners for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence since 2012. Elaine was recently named a Master Examiner, a designation given to experienced examiners who have served in leadership roles and demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the Baldrige framework.

A 2014 graduate of LEAD Tennessee, Elaine received a Black Belt in the leadership program in 2017 as a result of her commitment to internal and external service and strategic development. In early 2017, Elaine founded an affinity group within the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to expand her passion for supporting women.

In 2008, Elaine and her late husband, Clint Boyd, Jr. received first place and the Jennie W. Lemons Award in the Nashville Business Incubation Center's Business Plan Competition as co-owners of Higher Ground Training, Inc., a personal and professional development company.

She pursues her interests in the sustainability and livability of Middle Tennessee by serving as a Sumner County representative on the Board of Cumberland Region Tomorrow. She has a passion for advocacy and pursues that passion. She is a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary of All About Women, Inc. Elaine also serves on several committees within the Nashville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and is on the BlueCare Tennessee Community and Health Advisory Panel. In addition to mentoring others, Elaine strives to constantly learn and be mentored by others. She was honored to be invited to join the Nashville Women's Breakfast Club in 2016, which has furthered that focus.

Elaine holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Vanderbilt University. She has been a member of the University of Tennessee's Parents Council since 2013, where her daughter, Jordan, graduated, and son, Winston, is currently attends.

I love listening to good music, eating great food, communing with nature on the many beautiful trails and greenways in around Middle Tennessee and traveling.

JUDGE SHEILA CALLOWAY

Nominated by: Lawyer's Association for Women



JUDGE SHEILA CALLOWAY
Judge, Davidson County Juvenile Court

A native of Louisville, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and J.D. from Vanderbilt University. Following law school, Sheila worked at the Metropolitan Defender's

Office in the adult system as well as the juvenile system. In January 2004, she was appointed by Judge Betty Adams Green to the position of Juvenile Court Magistrate and served in that position until November 2013, when she announced her intention to run for the position of Juvenile Court Judge.

Sheila was elected Davidson County's Juvenile Court Judge and was sworn into office for her eight year term on August 28, 2014. Judge Calloway is also an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University School of Law and American Baptist College.

Judge Calloway uses her unique combination of humor, passion and judicial wisdom to change the way we look at justice in the United States. She was a featured speaker with TEDxNashville on "Can Forgiveness Transform the Criminal Justice System," a featured storyteller on "Flirting with Disaster: The Moth in Nashville" at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, and "Blinded by The Light: The Moth Members' Show" at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Judge Calloway has been recognized by various community agencies for being a leader in her field of excellence. She received the YWCA Academy of Women of Achievement Award, Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award, Community Nashville Human Relations Award, Nashville Public Television American Graduate Champion, Alignment Nashville Community Award Recipient, and the Napier-Looby Bar Association Justice A.A. Birch Outstanding Service Award. She is a member of the Nashville Public Education Foundation's Public Education Hall of Fame. She has been the keynote speaker at the Rotary Club of Nashville and the Lawyers' Association for Women-Marion Griffin Chapter.

I love the friendly attitude of Nashville's citizens. Nashvillians are invested in helping others. Nashville's commitment to community is my favorite thing.

THERESA CARL

Nominated by: Junior League of Nashville



THERESA CARL
President, Governor's Books from Birth Foundation

Theresa's passion for empowering women comes from her rural roots. Growing up on a family farm in Union City, Tennessee.

Being president of a statewide early literacy initiative is a deeply broadening experience that allows her to focus on developing strategies for sustaining and strengthening Tennessee's Imagination Library in all 95 counties.

Theresa has had the honor to serve as the leader of organizations like the Junior League and the Rotary Club of Nashville, and has used her communications skills while serving on various nonprofit boards. Her membership in Leadership Nashville and Leadership Tennessee have further informed her community perspective.

In 1975, Theresa graduated from Rhodes College with a B.A. with distinction in Political Science and Urban Studies, later serving as a trustee for nine years. She worked as Director of Development for LEAD Public Schools, Inc., Vice President of Fund Development for Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee and Director of Development for the Frist Center for Visual Arts. She served as president of the Junior League of Nashville, president of The Rotary Club of Nashville, trustee of Westminster Presbyterian Church's Legacy Fund and is currently serving as board member of Nations Ministry Center, assisting Nashville's refugees. A graduate of Leadership Nashville and Leadership Tennessee, she is the co-chair of a project focused on developing conversations and best practices statewide about early childhood literacy and its effect on third grade reading proficiency.

Her husband and greatest supporter, Norm, is a retired investment advisor. Their daughter, Dr. Sarah Carl, is a post-doctoral fellow in epigenetics and genomics at the Friderich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research in Basel, Switzerland.

Nashville's cultural diversity and vibrancy defines us. Walking in Centennial Park, where many languages are spoken daily, is a gift I wish everyone would experience.

OLIVIA CLOUD

Nominated by: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,
Nashville Alumnae Chapter



OLIVIA CLOUD
Associate Editor,
R. H. Boyd Publishing Corporation

Olivia is a PK (“preacher’s kid”) and the youngest of six children.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Kentucky, and a Master of Religious Education from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Following seminary, she worked as an executive director of Capital Area Ministries, Inc., an ecumenical agency providing services to the Capitol Homes housing project in Atlanta. In 1987, she moved to Nashville to work as publications coordinator in the Black Church Development Section at the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. She was the first African-American female hired in a professional denominational position there. In 1997 she left to head her company, Guardian Angel Communications Services (GACS). From 2000 until 2004, she was senior editor at the historic R. H. Boyd Publishing Corporation, and was the first woman to hold this position.

In 2004, she became the first woman to serve as Director of Publishing for the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Rev. Cloud resigned in late 2007 to resume the full-time operation of GACS while also working at the R.H. Boyd Publishing Corporation as associate editor.

Olivia has served on the board of several local organizations, including the Nashville Child Development Center, the Witness Project, Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, Women On Maintaining Education and Nutrition for women who are HIV/AIDS positive, and the Nashville Coalition of 100 Black Women Foundation, Inc. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she has served in various capacities and is immediate past president of the Nashville Alumnae Chapter. Rev. Cloud is also currently board president of The Minerva Foundation of Tennessee and a subscribing Silver Life member of the NAACP.

She is an associate minister at Berean Baptist Church in Nashville and is a volunteer minister at the Nashville Rescue Mission Hope Center. Rev. Cloud is an author/editor of nine books, contributes to several nationally and internationally distributed works, and ghostwrites for a number of New York Times bestselling authors. Additionally, Rev. Cloud is a free-lance writer and editor for several Christian publishers.

I love that Nashville is growing more diverse every day, yet the essence of who we are has not yet been compromised.

NANCY CORLEY

Nominated by: Women’s Political Collaborative of TN



NANCY CORLEY
Lawyer, Corley Henard Lyle Langford PLC

In her hometown of Paris, Tennessee, Nancy grew up believing that women had choices. That with hard work and persistence, women could achieve their dreams. But, as a lawyer representing domestic violence victims, Nancy realized that some women don’t have choices. She resolved to try to change that, to do everything in her power to give all women choices.

As a lawyer, she has a certain degree of perceived personal power, and Nancy has often shared that power with a client who individually needed it, supporting and encouraging her, giving her a sense of control over her situation and confidence in her own abilities.

As an activist, Nancy works to share power with women in general, to give them better choices and opportunities, which has motivated her involvement with legislation over the years. Nancy has joined multiple organizations that support women including Women’s Political Collaborative because of its purposes and work to promote and protect the interests of women and children; Salvus Center and A Step Ahead because of their efforts to improve health care for women; Children Are People and PATHS because of their work to provide better education for children; Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program and Choices Recovery Inc. because of their work to support women in recovery and in crisis; Lawyers Association of Women, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women, League of Women Voters, Hendersonville Women’s Club because of their collaborative strength to support, educate and empower women.

Nancy has three daughters and four granddaughters, who motivate her to empower all women to prevent them from ever having to spend the night at a bus stop or wear men’s clothes to achieve their dreams. “I want every woman to have the opportunity to be all she can be,” says Nancy.

Nashville is a big city with a small town attitude. We have everything New York has but call each other by our first names.

KELLY DIXON

Nominated by: Deloitte



KELLY DIXON

Lawyer, Corley Henard Lyle Langford PLC

With over 35 years of experience in accounting and process improvements, Kelly leads multiple areas of Deloitte's Internal Finance Department, such as accounts payable, cash application, bank reconciliations, property and lease accounting, payroll accounting and security control. Her passion for solving problems and improving processes led Kelly to start a team called Innovative Process Solutions to work with other teams to create tools that improves efficiency.

Kelly currently serves as the executive sponsor for the Hermitage WIN and on the leadership team for the Finance and Administration Inclusion Council.

Prior to moving to Tennessee, Kelly was the first woman partner in a regional accounting firm in Kentucky. She practiced public accounting for six years before she took a position as CFO of a petroleum distributor.

Formerly, Kelly served on the Volunteer Resource team for United Way and participated in many Habitat for Humanity builds. She also enjoys volunteering to assist students in completing their financial aid applications.

Kelly has a bachelor's degree in Business with a focus in Accounting from Murray State University and is a member of the advisory board for the accounting department. She is also a Certified Public Accountant licensed in Kentucky.

Nashville is like a small big city with access to features of a big city but with the atmosphere of a small town.

KIMBERLY ESTEP

Nominated by: Women in Higher Education in TN



KIMBERLY ESTEP

Chancellor, WGU Tennessee

Western Governors University (WGU) is a state-endorsed nonprofit, accredited university that launched in July 2013 with the goal to expand working adults' access to higher education throughout Tennessee. In almost five years at the helm of the online university, which is part of Governor Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative, Dr. Estep has worked to grow WGU Tennessee's enrollment to more than 3,600 students with more than 2,000 alumni throughout the state. She has also led the charge in securing articulation agreements between WGU Tennessee and all 13 community colleges in the state. Dr. Estep has also formed partnerships with many of Tennessee's largest and most recognizable organizations and companies to provide opportunities for working adults to pursue higher education and to provide companies with a well-educated workforce.

A formerVPAASS, she sits on the Advisory Board of Metro Nashville Public Schools' Virtual School, is a member of the Rotary Club of Nashville, and volunteers regularly with the Nashville literacy nonprofit Book 'em. In 2016, Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET) recognized her as their Woman of Achievement.

An Ozark, Alabama native, Dr. Estep lives in Murfreesboro with her husband, Paul Adams, and four rescue cats. They are members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Murfreesboro and have three grown children.

Nashville is Music City, and my favorite activities are attending classical music events at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center and Nashville churches.

TONI FITZGERALD

Nominated by: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,
Alpha Delta Omega Chapter



TONI FITZGERALD
Senior Marketing Consultant, WZTV Fox 17

Toni's career has evolved with Fox 17 for nearly 13 years, where she is one of the leaders in the organization's increased efforts in advertising and digital interactive media. She is responsible for negotiating large corporate media accounts such as Hyundai, Chevrolet, Regions Bank, Subway and many more. Other responsibilities include creating strategic marketing programs involving special promotions, community development and diversity marketing for three television stations: WZTV Fox 17, WUXP MyTV30 and WNAB CW58.

Toni received the "Darren Shapiro's Outstanding Revenue Award" and she was number 21 out of 550 account executives nationwide.

Since her mother's death she has made screening for colon cancer her life's mission. March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month and Toni encourages everyone to participate and get screened. She started the "Blue Out" day, where everyone wears blue during awareness month. For two consecutive years, Toni has led the efforts among her friends on social media to wear blue in honor of her mother and others that have been effected by this disease. She says, "It's the least I could do for an amazing woman that did so much for me!"

Toni's social, civic and professional affiliations include financial secretary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., board chairman and former president of the National Sales Network Nashville Chapter and Sargent at Arms of Jack and Jill of America Nashville Chapter .

Toni's motto is: "Do what you don't want to do right now, so you do what you want to do later!"

Toni's passion is emceeding events, and she has emceed several events for her sorority, fraternities and nationally for the National Sales Network.

She is a member of Jackson Street Church of Christ, married to Chauncey Fitzgerald and has a son named Chance.

I love that Nashville offers a "Big City" life, yet still has its Southern Charm a! And unlimited brunch options!

HONORABLE BRENDA GILMORE

Nominated by: Links, Inc., Music City Chapter



**REPRESENTATIVE
BRENDA GILMORE**
State Representative, District #54,
Tennessee General Assembly

Representative Gilmore is a lifetime public servant who passionately works for issues affecting poor and disadvantaged people, women and children. In the Tennessee General Assembly, she is on the Fiscal Review, Budget and Finance Committee and the Business and Utility Committee. Previously, Representative Gilmore chaired the Tennessee Black Caucus and co-chaired the STEM Caucus.

She is a former Metro Council member and previously worked almost 20 years as Director of University Mail Services for Vanderbilt.

Representative Gilmore formerly served on the Susan Gray School for Children and Skyline Medical Center's Board of Directors, as a trustee for Belmont University Trust Board of Directors, as chair of the Margaret Cunningham Women's Center Board of Directors and the United Negro College Fund Volunteer Committee, as president of the Minerva Foundation and the Senior Citizen Inc. Board of Directors, and former president of National Hook Up of Black Women and Nashville CABLE.

Representative Gilmore co-chaired the capital campaign for the Northwest YMCA. She served on the Middle Tennessee YMCA Board of Directors and chaired the We Build People campaign, raising over \$100 thousand benefiting membership scholarships.

Presently, she is a member of Fifty Forward's Endowment Board and Bordeaux Advisory Board, Women in Numbers (WIN), League of Women Voters, the NAACP Lifetime membership, Top Ladies of Distinction, TSU Alumni Association and Music City Chapter of Links, Nashville Women's Political Caucus' Nominating Committee chair and Vice President of Nashville NAACP.

Nationally, she is a board member of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators and National Caucus of State Legislators, the state director of Women in Government, former chair of the Women's Network, executive board member at large of the National Black Caucus, and currently chairs the National Housing and Economic Development Committee.

Most recently, she received the SAGE Award, the YWCA Academy of Women of Achievement, and nominated for the ATHENA Award four times.

She and her husband, Harry, have one daughter, Councilwoman-at-Large Erica Gilmore and one granddaughter, Anyah Gilmore Jones.

CINDEE GOLD

Nominated by: League of Women Voters of Nashville



CINDEE GOLD
Community Volunteer

Cindee was born in Burnswick, Georgia. When she graduated from Newcomb and Tulane University with degrees in Political Science and Communication in 1982, she was the first in her family to graduate from college. Prior to moving to Nashville in 1989, Gold managed restaurants for Hyatt Regency in Chicago and developed special events for the Sara Lee Corporation.

Upon her arrival in Nashville, she sought to plug into the community and quickly joined a multitude of organizations. One of the organizations that made a tremendous impact on her life is the League of Women Voters Nashville. Over the past four years, she has relished working with other women to educate and create informed voters and most recently, explore why registered voters do not vote. Serving as Fundraising Chair, she enjoys securing funding for the organization that will help ensure its ability to continue serving the community. Alongside President Debby Gould, Cindee is working to launch an initiative to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Tennessee Women and the Passage of the 19th Amendment.

She has also enjoyed her 23 year tenure with Book'Em and Reading is Fundamental. Introduced to this organization by Junior League of Nashville, she served as president of Reading Is Fundamental before orchestrating a successful merger with Lee Fairbend of Book'Em. She then served as president of Book'Em. She is active in fundraising and reads monthly to her assigned classroom. Cindee has always worked on behalf of our beloved Jewish community. She currently sits on Temple Ohabei Shalom's Board of Directors and chaired major gifts for their recent endowment drive. She also chaired the 2016 and 2017 annual fundraising campaigns for the Gordon Jewish Community (GJCC) and is slated to become president of the GJCC board. Cindee also served as president of the board for Hillel at Vanderbilt University.

She and her husband, Michael, have been married for 35 years and have two children and two golden doodles. Cindee enjoys reading, playing Words with Friends, travel and triathlon sprint racing, although she usually finishes in the bottom third! Her role model is her late mother, Sandee, who always instilled a sense of worth.

I love Nashville's spirit of volunteering, the beautiful park systems, the Nashville Ballet, Tennessee Performing Arts, my smart girlfriends and my lovely husband, Michael.

MARCI BUTLER-HOLT

Nominated by: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. ,
Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter



MARCI BUTLER-HOLT
Senior Advisor, Tennessee
Department of Environment and
Conservation

Marci is a Detroit native who has resided in Nashville for over 20 years, now calling it home. She embodies the essence of a true Renaissance woman. In addition to having over 30 years of leadership experience in public, private and non-profit sectors, she is an author, singer/songwriter, producer, entrepreneur, community leader, mother and wife. She believes in God and her god-given artistic talents. So, when the music industry changed the game, she partnered with fellow musician and business owner Joe Johnson to found YASNY Music Entertainment, Inc., an independent record label that produced timeless music projects.

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer and weeks later found out that she was pregnant with her first child, she took a break from the music scene. She was later inspired to establish Greenlight Entertainment Inc. in response to some of the programming she encountered that seemed to be the standard for children. Greenlight Entertainment is an arts and entertainment company that provides uplifting entertainment and learning tools that positively impact the lives of children, while using the arts as its framework. It was then that Marci's creativity began to resurface and she was inspired to create "Mommy, Sing Me a Lullaby." This delightful children's book and CD serves as an excellent tool to help parents establish a night-time routine, while developing a preschooler's love for reading and music.

Marci's belief in living out your dreams and contributing to others along the way has prompted her to support others in their endeavors. She often quotes the African proverb, "Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." This fuels her "why-power" and strengthens her overall commitment to our nation's youth, business and fellow professional women.

What I love about Nashville is its growth and the Music! I can go to different spots and listen to a variety of live music!

CARLA JARRELL

Nominated by: Pathway Women's Business Center



CARLA JARRELL

Community Development Officer,
Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc.

Carla is the Community Development Officer for Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc. In this position, she is responsible for managing the firm's community development activities across its footprint. Her financial services experience spans 24 years. Carla came to Pinnacle in 2003 from The Bank of Nashville, where she was vice president and compliance officer.

Prior to The Bank of Nashville, Jarrell was an assistant vice president in the legal and compliance division at First American National Bank. She holds a paralegal certificate from the Southeastern Institute for Paralegal Education and certificates from the American Bankers Association National Compliance School in both lending and deposit and operations.

Carla currently serves on the board of Woodbine Community Organization, BrightBridge and the Advisory Board for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville. She is the immediate past vice president of Tennessee Jump\$tart and is currently serving as the secretary of the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition.

She is a member of the Affordable Housing and Community Growth Forum of Nashville, BankOn Nashville Advisory board and the Nashville Alliance for Financial Independence. She is a past board chair of Progress, Inc., an agency that provides support services for adults with developmental disabilities and served for several years on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Carla was named a finalist in the Community Supporter category of the Nashville Business Journal's Women of Influence for 2014. In 2012 she was named Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee's Community Leader of the Year.

"My favorite thing about Nashville is that even with its recent growth it is still a welcoming hometown...and the Titans and Predators!"

BRIDGETTE HICKEY LONG

Nominated by: National Coalition of Black Women,
Metro Nashville Chapter



BRIDGETTE HICKEY LONG

Supervisory Staff Administrator,
Department of Defense

As the principal civilian in the absence of the Brigade Commander, Bridgette supervises a staff of 13 soldiers and DA civilians, manages the daily operations of the brigade, and manages the Internal Control Management Program. The command supports 1,400 soldiers in five Southeastern states including Puerto Rico. Bridgette serves as the Brigade Comptroller, Government Travel Card Manager, Facility Coordinator with eleven tenants, and conducts training required for full time Unit Support personnel. She coordinates operations, logistics and human resource actions.

Bridgette has served 28 years in the military with a direct commission in 2001. She attended numerous military classes, which included Captain Career Course, AMEDD Health Service Human Resources Management course, and AMEDD Commissioned Officer Basic Course. She also has received training and certifications in many civilian classes including Ethics at Work, Supervisory Development and Project Management Professional Course.

Bridgette received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Telecommunications and her master's degree in Public and Private Management and Healthcare Management from Birmingham Southern College.

Within her community, Bridgette is active in the Order of the Eastern Stars, Capitol Hill #133. She has held the office of chapter chaplain, treasurer, and district chaplain. She is a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Metro Nashville Chapter, National Hook-Up of Black Women, National Consortium of Black Women in Ministry's Nashville Chapter, the NAACP's Nashville Chapter, Alabama A&M University Alumni Association's Nashville Chapter. She is the founder of Mentor U, Mentor Me Mentorship Initiative started in January 2017.

My favorite thing about Nashville is it offers a variety of activities that includes music, food and culture.

JUDY SPENCER

Nominated by: All About Women



JUDY SPENCER
Member, Riggs Davie PLC

Judy was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky and was the youngest of four children. From a very early age, she drove herself to achievement and was the “star” of the family, becoming valedictorian and voted “Most Likely to Succeed” in high school. During this time, her parents divorced, which instilled in her the importance of self-sufficiency.

A Yale University cum laude graduate, Judy majored in Political Science. She was heavily involved in her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, served as business manager at WYBC, Yale’s radio station, and joined the Liberal Party of the Political Union.

Upon graduation, Judy worked as a paralegal in New York for a large well-established law firm. This experience exposed her to the rigors of a career in law. After two years, she moved to Nashville to attend Vanderbilt Law School, where she met her first husband.

Judy and her husband also attended the Owen Graduate School of Management, and in four years, they graduated with both law and business degrees. After graduation she practiced corporate and securities law at a Washington, D.C. law firm. Two years later, they moved back to Nashville, where she joined Bass, Berry and Sims, primarily handling transactions for healthcare companies.

In 2002 eighteen months after her daughter was born, Judy was divorced. She struggled to maintain her career trajectory while being a single mom. When working reduced hours failed to improve her situation, she moved to an in-house counsel position at Emdeon.

Judy was then provided the opportunity to work for HealthTrust Purchasing Group, HCA’s group purchasing organization. As second in line to the Chief Legal Counsel, she was eventually promoted to managing counsel. During her tenure at HealthTrust, she graduated from the Scarlett Leadership Institute. Judy was then recruited by a Scarlett colleague to work as VP of Business Development for Delek US Holdings, an oil and gas company.

Judy then joined Riggs Davie, where she currently practices corporate and healthcare law. She was made partner within a year and a half, and was named a Health Care Hero in 2017.

In her spare time Judy loves to hike in Percy Warner Park or on a greenway with her dogs. “The exercise helps me de-stress and appreciate nature,” Judy says.

DEANNA STEELE

Nominated by: Women in Technology of Tennessee



DEANNA STEELE
CIO, Ingram Content Group

Deanna Steele is a leader of people, business and non-profit organizations, a mother of twin nine year old boys, stepmother to three, and wife of 15 years. She values the efforts and choices women make every day about where to spend their time and energy, and the sacrifices they make to integrate work and life.

Over the past 25 years, Deanna has enjoyed working in a variety of industries including software, consulting, retail and publishing. She has held positions in IT, operations and business development, and has learned the most through increasing levels of responsibility, facing new challenges and learning new lessons along the way. She has had the opportunity to make a difference for the organizations and people she has worked with through business enablement, cost reduction and revenue generation.

Integrating work and life, currently as CIO of Ingram Content Group, and in other CIO and IT leadership roles, is important to her, and believes prioritizing key moments is key. She has learned that not everything can be perfect “all the time,” and that being present in the moment matters.

Deanna believes in leading by example, and holds that expectation of her teams. She believes in leaving ego and title at the door, and doing whatever it takes to reach a goal. Her leadership style has been characterized as tough but fair. She found that as a woman in business leadership style needs to be flexible depending upon the audience, levels and preconceived notions.

Deanna has been fortunate to hold leadership roles in nonprofit organizations that benefit abused and sick children, and that strive to fight poverty. She has served on boards and as president, helping raise millions of dollars and developing nonprofit leaders.

Personal accomplishments include being a mother, stepmother and partnering with her husband and step-children’s mother to keep their extended family connected and close. Deanna grew up with a single mother who went back to school for her undergraduate and master’s degrees and worked two jobs to support her three children. In her early twenties, Judy reunited with her father, which has created healing. After that reunion, she vowed never to let petty matters get in the way of family and rewarding relationships.

“Nashville is diverse and dynamic. It’s a wonderful place for family, business, philanthropy, and offers a great healthy outdoor environment.”

PATTI JAMES

Nominated by: CABLE Nashville Chapter



PATTI JAMES

Founder and Consultant, PB & J Consulting

Over a three-decade career in key leadership roles with three global corporations, Patricia has developed and executed successful strategies for sustainable change in human resources and shared services. Patti's career began in human resources with Shell Oil, followed by time with Schlumberger Limited, before joining Bridgestone Americas from 1992 to 2013. At Bridgestone she lead human resources and shared services for North and South America. Following retirement from Bridgestone, Patricia revitalized a regional nonprofit leadership program. She is currently a consultant providing human resources, business development, training and development, and executive and transition coaching services to both individual and business clients.

Recognized within her company roles and through outside organizations as an inspirational leader, coach and mentor, Patricia has advised leaders at every level, from CEO to emerging leader. One CEO who worked with her praised her strategic ability and willingness to speak truth to power: "On more than one occasion her good business sense kept us out of the ditch."

She holds a BSBA and MBA from The Ohio State University and a Master of Arts in Civic Leadership from Lipscomb University. She is active in the nonprofit community and mentors with Rutherford CABLE Protégé program, Middle Tennessee SHRM Student Mentor program, OSU Fisher College of Business Alumni Mentor program, tnAchieves, and WOMEN Unlimited- a global women's professional development organization. In 2011, she was named a Woman of Influence by the Nashville Business Journal.

Patricia currently serves on the executive committee and board of Nashville Cable. In 2016-2017, she chaired the Cable Programs committee driving speaker recruitment and selection, along with logistical support. In 2017-2018, she was asked to chair the Women's Leadership Cluster to drive programming to support Cable's mission as the premier leadership organization for women's professional advancement including the Executive Leadership Academy, Mentoring Program and Corporate Board Academy. Patricia was recently recruited to serve on the Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee's board and her leadership service will begin in January.

Patricia and her husband, Greg, live in Murfreesboro where they enjoy home projects, travel, friends and family. Music! Whether its opera, country, classical, or rock, you can find it in Nashville. The city is a "bucket list" performance location for all musicians!

HONORABLE ALETA TRAUGER

Nominated by: International Women's Forum, TN Chapter



HONORABLE ALETA TRAUGER

United States District Judge,
Administrative Office of the
United States Courts

Aleta Trauger is a third-generation native of Denver, Colorado. She received her bachelor's degree from Cornell College and her MAT and J.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University. Like many women lawyers of her generation, she taught school (in England and Tennessee) before entering law school.

Aleta clerked for a small firm during law school and joined that firm after graduation. After a few short years in private practice, she was recruited into the United States Attorney's Office. She served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Nashville for four years and in Chicago for one year. She became the first woman to ever serve as First Assistant and Chief of the Criminal Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nashville.

After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, Aleta practiced with Hollins Wagster and Yarbrough for two years, then served as the first in-house Counsel for the College of Charleston.

Upon returning to Nashville, she joined the firm of Gilbert Frank and Milam, which later merged with Wyatt Tarrant and Combs, where she practiced for many years. In that practice, she represented many prominent entertainment clients in cases brought both by and against them.

When Mayor Phil Bredesen took office, he asked Aleta to serve as his Chief of Staff, probably the most challenging position of her entire career!

In 1998, President Clinton named Aleta to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville. She is the first woman to sit on that court and the first woman alumnae of Vanderbilt Law School to hold a United States District Court position.

Aleta is married to Byron Trauger, a Nashville lawyer who practices in his own firm. They have a daughter and two small granddaughters, who live next door to them.

People of different political, ethnic, and racial backgrounds live in harmony, thanks in large part to the political, religious and non-profit leadership in Nashville.

BELVA WEATHERBY

Nominated by: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,
Alpha Delta Omega Chapter



BELVA WEATHERBY
Head Start State Collaboration
Director, Tennessee Department of
Education

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Belva was reared in a home where values of faith, family and friendship were instilled. This culture continued upon uniting with her husband and partner in ministry, Dr. Kenneth Weathersby, of 28 years and co-parent of two young adults, Kenyeta and Breon.

During college at Hampton University, she studied Sociology and Criminal Justice. Belva served in roles of leadership and as a youth mentor in the juvenile justice court system. In graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University, she earned a Master of Social Work degree in planning and administration and received a Leadership and Service Award for her efforts within the School of Social Work Student Association.

Belva has served in numerous church and community organizations and in progressive leadership roles over the past 35 years, serving people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, children and families living in poverty, and those experiencing other compromising life situations.

She has served in leadership roles including president of the Georgia Head Start Association and second vice president in the Region IV Head Start Association. She has served on numerous committees as the voice of Head Start to include the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) advisory groups and task forces, State of Georgia Children's Cabinet, and Georgia and Tennessee Oral Health Coalitions. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and volunteers for the American Cancer Society, the American Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Alzheimer's Association, homeless and women's shelters, food banks, nursing home ministries, and programs for women in recovery.

Belva has served in many roles in public, private and government entities and currently serves in the Tennessee Department of Education as Head Start State Collaboration Director. She continues to engage and empower people and programs toward excellence and effectiveness.

She ministers at Simeon Baptist Church in Antioch, Tennessee as an associate minister, co-teacher, and choir member. Belva is an avid sports and fitness enthusiast.

Nashville What I enjoy doing most in Nashville is to attend various musical theatre events either at Tennessee Performing Arts Center, local universities, or other venues.

GAIL CARR WILLIAMS

Nominated by: Links, Inc. Nashville Chapter



GAIL CARR WILLIAMS
Associate Director Community
Neighborhood and Government
Relations, Vanderbilt University

Gail earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and holds a J.D. from the University of Detroit School of Law. She practiced criminal defense and domestic relations law in the Detroit area before moving to Columbus, Ohio.

Gail was a Human Resources Employee Relations Specialist at The Ohio State University and became the Executive Assistant of Outreach and Engagement for the University. In 2000, she and her family relocated to Nashville.

Gail is currently the Associate Director of Community Relations at Vanderbilt University, where she is responsible for building partnerships and collaborations on behalf of the university through innovative, creative academic-based programming. Gail is a strong community representative who understands the power of engaging in dialogue with multiple organizations and initiates programming that produces long-lasting positive change.

In 2014, Gail became an instructor in the Peabody College of Education and Human Development's Independent School Leadership M.ED program.

Currently, Gail is serving as board chair of the Metropolitan Nashville Transit Authority. She previously served as chair of the Finance and Transportation Committees. Gail is the current president and former financial secretary of the Nashville Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. She is also the board president of Healing Trust. She recently joined the Literature Science and Arts Dean's Advisory Council at the University of Michigan.

She also serves on the board of Transit Alliance, The Frist Center for the Visual Arts and chairs its Education Council, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Alignment Nashville, Horizons Program at USN, and the Opera Advisory Board. Recently Gail rotated off the board of the University School of Nashville after serving 14 years including president of the Board of Trustees and two years as vice president. Previously serving on the boards of the YWCA, The Women's Fund Advisory Board of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Harpeth Hall School for Girls, Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee, The Land Trust of Tennessee, Nashville Opera, Nashville Aquatic Club and The Ladies' Hermitage Association.

Gail loves spending time with her husband David and children Samantha and Nick, family and friends, and enjoys traveling, sports and reading.

What I love about Nashville -The people! We are a strong, diverse, resilient, kind, supportive community. A smart city with thought leaders solving issues facing our nation. And GREAT FOOD!

PAST ATHENA RECIPIENTS



2017
Patricia Glaser Shea



2016
Phyllis Qualls-Brooks



2015
Dr. Kimberlee
Wyche-Etheridge



2014
Linda Peek
Schacht



2013
Charlene Dewey



2012
Ruth Johnson



2011
Christine Bradley



2010
Susan Short Jones



2009
Janet Jernigan



2008
Joyce Searcy



2007
Barbara Moss



2006
Tommie Morton-Young



2005
Yvonne C. Wood



2004
Mary Frances Lyle



2003
Patricia Pierce



2002
Deborah Faulkner



2001
Ronnie Steinberg



2000
Deborah German



1999
Carol L. McCoy



1998
Betty Chiles Nixon



1997
Gayle Ray



1996
Sarah Hamilton Sell



1995
Linda Rudolph



1994
Inez Crutchfield



1993
Mary Anne Jackson



1992
Margaret L. Behm



1991
Martha Craig Daughtrey

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

ALL ABOUT WOMEN

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. - ALPHA DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. - KAPPA LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER

DELOITTE

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. - NASHVILLE ALUMNAE CHAPTER

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. - NASHVILLE METROPOLITAN ALUMNAE CHAPTER

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM - TENNESSE CHAPTER

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE

LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NASHVILLE

LINKS, INC. MUSIC CITY CHAPTER

LINKS, INC. NASHVILLE CHAPTER

NASHVILLE CABLE

NASHVILLE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

NASHVILLE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS, NASHVILLE CHAPTER

NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN-METRO NASHVILLE CHAPER

PATHWAY WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER

SKANSKA

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN TENNESSEE

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY OF TENNESSEE

WOMEN'S POLITICAL COLLABORATIVE OF TENNESSEE

YWCA NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

ATHENA JUDGES

JULIA BAKER

All About Women

CLARISSA HARRIS

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Alpha Delta Omega Chapter

KATINA BEARD

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter

LAURA CREEKMORE

Nashville Cable

SUSAN LEWIS

Deloitte

MARION SOUTHALL-WHITE

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Nashville Alumnae Chapter

BEVERLY JOHNSON

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter

EVETTE WHITE

International Women's Forum - TN Chapter

ALLISON REED

Junior League of Nashville

ASHONTI DAVIS

Lawyers' Association for Women

DEBBY GOULD

League of Women Voters of Nashville

DR. KIMBERLEE WYCHE-ETHERIDGE

Links, Inc. Music City Chapter

VERDELL BOWIE

Links, Inc. Nashville Chapter

CATHY GURLEY

Nashville Women's Breakfast Club

ANGELA EVANS

National Association of Women Business Owners, Nashville Chapter

ANGELA ELLIS NELSON

National Coalition of Black Women-Metro Nashville Chapter

TARA HOUSTON

Pathway Women's Business Center

RAMONA WEBB

Women In Higher Education in TN

BARBARA WEBB

Women In Technology of Tennessee

STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

Women's Political Collaborative of TN



KEENA ALEXANDER

Nominated by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,
Nashville Alumnae Chapter



KEENA ALEXANDER

Senior International Tax Analyst,
Asurion, Inc.

Keena is a leader in the field of taxation,
providing significant cost savings for
current and former employers

throughout her career. She forges collaboration through data
analytics and tax technology. From navigating complex tax
rules to creating tax entity
structure, many companies have benefited from Keena’s
workflow solutions.

From Jackson, Mississippi, Keena earned a Master of Taxation
from the University of Mississippi’s Patterson School of
Accountancy. After completing her master’s degree, Keena
accepted a tax analyst with Walmart headquarters working
in finance roles supporting manufacturing, international
business development and purchasing. She later left Walmart
to work as a senior tax analyst at Clarcor Inc., where she was
responsible for all federal and state compliance. At Clarcor,
she developed multiple time saving systems, used to analyze
fixed assets, complete estimated payments and complete the
company’s annual apportionment work. Recently, Keena has
taken on the role of international tax analyst at Asurion, LLC,
where she partners with other leaders to provide analytical
support and identify initiatives to drive efficiency. At Asurion,
Keena serves on Blacks Encouraging and Supporting Talent
(BEST) community engagement committee.

Keena spends her free time serving on committees and
doing community service. She is a member of the Music for
Seniors Board of Directors and former board chair of the
Clarcor Foundation. She also serves on the board of The
Minerva Foundation. She is a member of Toastmasters, Na-
tional Association of Black Accountants, and the Tax
Executives Institute.

Keena volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, Leap Frog, Big
Brothers Big Sisters and the United Way of Williamson County
Allocations Board. Keena has been a member of Delta Sigma
Theta Sorority, Inc. for over 15 years, where she currently
serves on the Internal Audit and Delta Academy committe. Prior
to that, Keena served as the treasurer where she implemented
accounting software, developed policies and procedures, and
drove cost savings. Named Volunteer of the Month, Keena was
honored by Doing Good in December of 2017.

I love that Nashville offers a social scene, diverse culture and
plenty of opportunities such as falls, hiking trails and parks to
embrace nature.

JENNIFER BENNETT

Nominated by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.,
Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter



JENNIFER BENNETT

Financial Analyst, Vanderbilt University

Jennifer was born and raised near the
Midwest cornfields of her home in
South Bend, Indiana. At an early age
she exhibited leadership qualities and
acquired the necessary skill set that

would propel her to achieve greatness. Jennifer’s family has
generously denoted her the title “The General.” If something
needs to be done efficiently and effectively with elegance,
she is your woman!

With a strong fortitude and positive outlook on life, she
began her journey of giving back to the community that gave
so much to her. As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
Jennifer has been able to aid this illustrious organization
in continuing their mission of cultivating and strengthening
young women and the community as a whole. Separate from
this organization, Jennifer has also given her time, talent
and expertise in the area of finance to many young people
throughout the community as they transition to adulthood.
Helping to guide many youth through a Rights of Passage
process, which is inclusive of resume writing, college
application preparation, etiquette seminars and other
various maturation steps, this has proven to be a priceless
experience.

As the owner and visionary of an active wedding and event
planning business, Jennifer loves to utilize this opportunity
to stretch her creativity and enhance her financial consulting
background to help her client’s visions come to life! The
culmination of life experiences, professional development,
and a passion for helping to cultivate the lives young women
remains the sole purpose of her life work.

It is a good mix of city and country, I love to call is
“Southern Chic”. And I love to try new restaurants.

VERONICA MICHELLE CLARK

Nominated by National Coalition of 100 Black Women



VERONICA MICHELLE CLARK

Procurement Consultant I, University of Tennessee Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Veronica has a passion for being a voice for the voiceless. Through her personal and civic engagements, she has created programming designed to empower and educate individuals. As the Director of Administration at You Have the Power, she was primarily responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with federal, state, and community funding efforts, accounting initiatives, and community outreach. In this capacity, she created the organization's "Rise Above Bullying" program, designed to educate youth on how to be an active bystander and prevent bullying.

A native of Paducah, Kentucky, Veronica graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor's of Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing. She began her professional career with the Lexington Herald-Leader. During her tenure in the newspaper industry, she aggressively identified and pursued opportunities for contact expansion and new business. She then moved to Nashville to be closer to her family and began working at The Tennessean.

For six years, she served as a Big Sister through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. Through this experience, she realized her desire to give back to today's future leaders. She is currently active in the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. and National Coalition of 100 Black Women. Other community organizations that she is involved include the Nashville Emerging Leaders Class of 2016, Baptist Healing Trust Peer Leader Circle, University of Kentucky Alumni Association, and the Nashville Coalition against Domestic Violence.

Currently, she is employed as a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Consultant at the University of Tennessee. PTAC enables businesses to successfully compete for government contracts on a federal, state and local level. They accomplish this through one-on-one counseling and educational classes.

I enjoy the rich arts and culture of Nashville, but what I most enjoy is the giving spirit that allows me to pursue my life's [dream].

KATHERINE DANIELS

Nominated by Junior League of Nashville



KATHERINE DANIELS

Private Banking Officer, InsBank

A banker at INSBANK, a Nashville-based full-service bank headquartered in Green Hills, Katherine created a private banking division for high net worth clients' consumer related requests. She is not only dedicated to the community banking industry, but she is personally committed to the success of her clients, an attribute that has shaped her approach to her professional success.

Prior to joining INSBANK, Katherine was branch manager at Capstone Bank in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She also served as a commercial and consumer lending assistant at Triumph Bank in Memphis.

She exemplifies service leadership through her commitment to the Nashville community. She dedicates her time weekly as project chair for Junior League of Nashville's partnership with End Slavery Tennessee, a Nashville nonprofit working to rescue victims of human trafficking and turn them into survivors. In addition, Katherine is the board intern for End Slavery Tennessee and a member of the Tri Delta Alumnae Association and the French Alliance of Nashville.

Katherine earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from Mississippi State University. She's an avid traveler, lover of college football and loves cooking large Sunday dinners with her husband.

I love the sense of community in each neighborhood and the way the city supports local businesses and nonprofits.

TRACI DeTOMASI

Nominated by YWCA Nashville and Middle Tennessee



TRACI DeTOMASI

Executive Director, No More

Growing up in a small rural town in Michigan, Tracy often read a marble plaque in her home that read, “Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.” Her mother received this as a gift after winning the state championship in Snowmobile Water Cross – a male-dominated sport. From a young age, Tracy learned from her mother that being a woman should never hold her back. With that influence from both of her parents, Tracy committed her life to helping others and being a voice for those who are often silenced.

Tracy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Grand Valley State University and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Michigan. Tracy started her career as a therapist working with juvenile sex offenders to prevent future recidivism. In Seattle, she oversaw group homes for adolescents including a program dedicated to helping youth who identified as LGBTQIA.

After moving to Nashville to become Vice President of Domestic Violence Services for the YWCA, overseeing the largest emergency domestic violence shelter in the state of Tennessee. She created curriculum for the AMEND Together program – a primary prevention program that engages men and boys to end violence against women, implemented the lethality assessment protocol in collaboration with Metro’s Office of Family Safety and the MNPd, doubling the average daily crisis calls. She also strategically aligned the AMEND Together program throughout the Nashville community engaging coaches, clergy and CEOs .

Currently, Tracy is the executive director of NO MORE, dedicated to uniting and strengthening a diverse, global community to help end domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse. NO MORE provides public awareness campaigns, marketing tools and communications resources for anti-violence organizations, large and small.

Launched in 2013, NO MORE is the most successful public awareness campaign on domestic violence and sexual assault in U.S. history. The organization brings together the largest coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, governmental agencies, major corporations, universities, communities and individuals. Tracy also serves as the President of the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence and a member of Metro Nashville’s Domestic Abuse Death Review Team.

What I love about Nashville is the people, non-profits, local government agencies, and companies that are committed to making Nashville the safest city in the nation for women and girls.

KRISTEN HEGGIE

Nominated by Skanska Women’s Network



KRISTEN HEGGIE

Project Manager, Skanska

Kristen is a project manager for Skanska USA in Nashville, Tennessee. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of construction projects, including overall project budget; owner relationships; subcontract execution and management; subcontractor cost and coordination; construction document change management; pricing and schedule coordination. Throughout her career, Kristen has led some of the Nashville’s most iconic projects. Prior to Skanska, she served as the Manager of Development and Construction Analysis and Logistics for the owner’s representative team on the \$585 million Music City Center project for five years.

Since joining Skanska in 2013, Kristen has served as the lead project manager on the \$50 million Ascend Amphitheater and West Riverfront Park Redevelopment; managed preconstruction and project start-up on the new JW Marriott Hotel; and is currently serving as the project manager on Fifth + Broadway – Nashville’s largest, single mixed-use development. In this role, she is overseeing \$25 million in renovations to the Renaissance Hotel. Upon completion of the renovation phase, Kristen will manage additional components of Fifth + Broadway, including underground parking structure, retail, the National Museum of African American Music and remaining site work.

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Kristen came to Nashville to attend Vanderbilt University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Human and Organizational Development. She was recently recognized in Nashville Business Journal as a 2017 Power Leaders in Commercial Real Estate “Rising Star.”

Over the years, Kristen has remained active in professional organizations, including Urban Land Institute, NAIOP and AEC Power Women. She participated in Young Leaders Council and has also spent time volunteering with the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, Center for Non-Profit Management, and Small World Yoga. In 2016, Kristen was appointed to the Federal Magistrate Judge Selection Committee.

Nashville is a growing city with many new and fun offerings for locals, but still remains a place with a “small town” community feel.

TASSANY HENDERSON

Nominated by Women in Higher Education in Tennessee



TASSANY HENDERSON
Program Coordinator,
Vanderbilt University

A native of Nashville, Tassany studied political science and higher education at Middle Tennessee State University for her undergraduate and graduate studies. She is employed at Vanderbilt University in the Office of Transition Programs. Working there allows her to pursue her passions of supporting First-Generation College Students success in college. With encouragement from her family and friends, Tassany is currently enrolled at Trevecca Nazarene University. She is studying Leadership and Professional Practice and prepares to graduate in 2018.

In her spare time, Tassany enjoys spending time with her loved ones, listening to live music, Vanderbilt football, and taking opportunities to learn new things. Next on her list after graduation is to learn Spanish. Tassany also volunteers her time serving her community as a Tennessee Promise mentor. This provides her the opportunity to give back to the community that has given her so much.

My favorite thing about Nashville is the availability to live music options.

JALEESA JOHNSON

Nominated by All About Women, Inc.



JALEESA JOHNSON
Clinical and Translational Research
Coordinator II, Vanderbilt University
Medical Center

Jaleesa is the Clinical and Translational Research Coordinator for the Division of General Pediatrics at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, Jaleesa has cultivated an interest in health and a passion for serving the community since a very young age.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2010 and her Master of Science degree in Public Health from Meharry Medical College in 2014. While residing in North Carolina, Jaleesa performed research for the NC Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on childhood obesity, volunteered as a coordinator for the "Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina" campaign. In 2012, Jaleesa, made the decision to move to Nashville to attend graduate school.

After moving here, Jaleesa worked for a non-profit and collective impact organization supporting the school system and worked with other non-profit and health-related organizations in and around the city. While attending graduate school, Jaleesa was crowned "Miss School of Graduate Studies and Research" and served as the community ambassador for the graduate school.

In 2014, Jaleesa traveled to Ghana, West Africa to perform mission work. She volunteered at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana, where she observed and assisted resident physicians in the labor and delivery unit. She also visited the City of Refuge Ministries in Ghana to mentor who were rescued from child slavery, abandonment, poverty and abuse. After her experience in Ghana, she realized that many people there, especially women, did not have the power or right to make decisions about their own bodies or their children. Since witnessing this, Jaleesa has made it part of her mission to advocate for women's rights and helping to improve women's and children's health.

Her current project in support of her mission is working with her church to put care packages and personal hygiene items together using gently-used purses for homeless women on the streets in Nashville. Jaleesa is an active member of the Upsilon Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and serves as the vice president-elect for All About Women, Inc.

I love that people from all ethnic backgrounds are welcome here. It is also great that I can always find live music somewhere around town!

SABRINA KNOWLTON

Nominated by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.,
Alpha Delta Omega Chapter



SABRINA KNOWLTON
Personal Coordinator, Walmart

Sabrina, a Memphis native, completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Tennessee State University. After obtaining her Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Educational Technology, she decided to take another direction professionally. This fueled her passion to be able to give opportunities to those in need.

She has seven years in retail management and human resources experience in Nashville's growing retail market. Recently working in one of Nashville's more diverse areas, she continuously finds ways to recruit, hire, teach, train and maintain associates. She has a special place in her heart for the Millennial attempting to join the workforce. She partners with local churches, high schools, and other community organization to recruit deserving Millennials for employment. She finds much success with the use of social media to help gain the attention and apply for jobs in these diverse communities. She has used her efforts to promote in-store hiring events and join the Nashville community in local job fairs. She enjoys mentoring women in professional development, educational enrichment and self-esteem.

A new member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, she passionately works through the Sorority's national and local targets such as Educational Enrichment, Family Strengthening, Environmental Ownership and others. Sabrina bridges those gaps through her connections in the retail world. She volunteers her time, talents and resources for events such as Health Fair Weekend and Backpack Give Away, Childhood Hungry Weekend Meal preparations, breast cancer walks, seasonal wraps initiatives, cotillion events, etc.

Sabrina credits two women in her life for her work ethic, perseverance, strength and resourcefulness. Her mother, Shirley A. Dockery, a single mother raising two daughters who taught them that a relationship with God, humble spirit, morals and a work ethic speaks for itself. Also her late Aunt Evelyn Marie Knowlton, whose loving spirit, warm smile and work ethics were demonstrated in every walk of life. Sabrina's servant leadership way of life makes her an "emerging leader" in the Nashville community.

My favorite thing about Nashville is its diversity in all aspects of life. You can find all types of people, events, music and food!

DR. SHANELL MCGOY

Nominated by The Links Inc., Music City Chapter



DR. SHANELL MCGOY
Director of HIV/STD,
Tennessee Department of Health

Dr. Shanell is a public health professional and Director of HIV for the Tennessee Department of Health. She oversees a state and federal investment that supports a comprehensive HIV service delivery system via Epidemiology/Surveillance, HIV Prevention, STD Prevention, Ryan White Program Part B, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, and Contracts/Finance. She received a B.A. in Comparative Women's Studies from Spelman College and an M.P.H. in Community Health Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health. She also received a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Following her doctoral studies, Dr. McGoy completed a Post- Doctoral Health Policy Leadership Fellowship at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. McGoy has many years of public health experience in both rural and urban areas across the country. She has worked in community based organizations, local, state and federal government public health agencies. Dr. McGoy has a passion and commitment to achieving health equity among vulnerable populations.

She currently serves as vice-chair of the Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC), chair of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), and the Music City Chapter of The Links Incorporated. She is among the inaugural class of the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 under 40 Leaders in Health Awards.

Shanell considers herself a servant leader. In her spare time, she enjoys quilting, traveling, learning with young public health professionals, and participating in community service. Dr. McGoy resides in Nashville and is married to Dr. Terry M. Powers, Jr.

Nashville has amazing music, restaurants, sports, and arts; but it is her embrace of newcomers and natural environment-parks, greenspaces, and waterways-that I most enjoy.

MICHELLE MYERS

Nominated by Deloitte



MICHELLE MYERS

Lead Project Specialist, Deloitte

Michelle has been with the Deloitte firm since 2014. She recently joined the Deployment Center of Excellence (DCoE) team within Deloitte ITS as a Lead Project Specialist. In this role, Michelle provides

support for multiple projects and training programs across the enabling areas. She is responsible for data gathering, analysis and reporting for all DCoE projects and adoption campaigns.

Michelle is a current member of the Hermitage Women's Initiative Network, where she volunteers with Race for the Cure, International Women's Day and the annual Warner Elementary Mother's Day store. Within this organization She holds the role of secretary and communications co-lead. Michelle assisted in planning the National Women in Technology Day for the Hermitage office in 2017 and recently helped organize the first annual Deloitte ITS Women's Summit. As part of the ITS Women's Summit, Michelle is the co-lead for the Coaching Program, which was an initiative that came from this summit. She has helped organize a team of women to help shift to a culture of courage by creating a program that will improve engagement and performance of ITS Women through intentional development of coaches and teammates.

Michelle's former role as project coordinator in the Deloitte Application Studios (DAS) Design Practice gave her exposure to various teams across the functions and enabling areas. She served as a functional and business process expert for design delivery, ensuring that both business needs and end-user needs are understood and reflected in every design solution. Michelle coordinated design thinking workshops and was responsible for quality, responsiveness, tracking and customer satisfaction for all activities associated with design delivery. In addition, she served as a member of the DAS Voice for FY17, which ensures full transparency across the DAS organization and their leadership.

Michelle is a business development professional with a Bachelor of Science from Auburn University. She volunteers her time with Preston Taylor Ministries, an afterschool program for elementary and middle school students. Outside of work and volunteering, Michelle enjoys hiking and playing tennis.

I love being able to have a strong community of people with an immense opportunity for personal growth and exploration due to Nashville's thriving development."

ERIN PALMER POLLY

Nominated by Lawyers' Association for Women,
Marion Griffin Chapter



ERIN PALMER POLLY

Attorney and Partner, Butler Snow LLP

Erin has practiced law in Nashville for fifteen years. She is a partner at Butler Snow LLP, where she concentrates her practice on civil rights litigation, commercial litigation and general

litigation. Erin is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, and she has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America in the areas of commercial litigation and personal injury litigation and by Super Lawyers as a Mid-South Rising Star in the area of civil litigation defense.

Erin was named to the Top 40 Under 40 and Best of the Bar by the Nashville Business Journal. She recently received recognition for a \$22.2 million jury verdict that she obtained for her client in The National Law Journal, Top Verdicts of 2016. Erin was appointed to the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection by the Tennessee Supreme Court, and she was named a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation. Along with this, Erin received the President's Award from the Nashville Bar Association and the Enterprise Award from the Young Lawyers Division.

Erin is slated to serve as president of the Nashville Bar Association in 2018. She also is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court and the Lawyers' Association for Women. Along with this, she serves on the Alumni Council of the University of Tennessee's College of Law and the board of The DISTRICT.

Erin obtained her undergraduate degree from Maryville College and her law degree from the University of Tennessee. She has been married to her husband, Ben, for ten years, and they have a four-year-old daughter, Katherine.

In Nashville, we get to enjoy the culture, food, and sports scene of a big town with the comfort and kindness of a small one.

ANCA POP

Nominated by Women in Technology of Tennessee (WITT)



ANCA POP
CEO, Striker Advisory

Anca Pop is an information security, compliance and IT consultant. She is the managing principal consultant and founder at Striker Advisory, which has three different lines of business: strategic business alignment services, technology solutions, and information security services. She has expertise in leading security and risk assessment projects, technology refresh projects, IT governance initiatives and policy and procedure documentation engagements. She also has expertise in technical project and project management and technical product development and management.

She most recently served in the role of Director of Product Development for Cybera, a leading provider of secure application networking services, where she performed the high-level analysis of technology market trends and development of market strategies.

Additionally, Anca has served two of the nation's leading healthcare companies. She has held the positions of Manager of Information Security as well as Director of Business Management for Platform Services for Emdeon, ensuring regulatory compliance within the healthcare and claims processing areas and IT Service Management and Compliance. With HCA Anca held the role of Senior IT and Compliance Auditor, leading technical quality and compliance efforts with a particular focus on vendor reviews. She diligently uncovered opportunities to enhance processes, while cultivating relationships within the Information Technology and Services group to align business objectives with technology practices.

Anca holds a Masters of Business Administration from Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management, a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems from Eastern Michigan University, an associate's degree in computer science from Washtenaw Community College, as well as an Associate in Engineering, Electrical from Universitatea Tehnica din Cluj-Napoca.

Nashville has amazing technology and healthcare organizations that provide multiple opportunities for the community.

NEKASHA PRATT

Nominated by Nashville Cable



NEKASHA PRATT
Director of Marketing, Tennessee
Department of Tourist Development

Nekasha is a senior marketing professional with over 15 years of experience. She leverages her background in social media, advertising, digital marketing and communications to guide independent businesses, non-profits and large corporations in defining and communicating their brand. Throughout her career, she has spearheaded national and international programs and worked for multi-million dollar organizations in industries such as financial services, tourism, manufacturing, insurance and consumer goods.

Currently the Director of Marketing for the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Nekasha helps lead marketing initiatives for the state's #2 industry (tourism), which generated \$1.7 billion in tax revenue last year. She previously served as the Director of Marketing and Donor Relations for the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM), leading the organization's re-branding and helping complete groundbreaking before transitioning into her current role at the State.

While progressing professionally, Nekasha has also been volunteering in Tennessee. She is serving in her third year on the Nashville Cable Board of Directors – currently as Marketing Technology Chair. She has also served on the Marketing and Outreach Committee for Make a Wish Foundation's Walk for Wishes for the last two years and has been a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters for two years. Additionally, Nekasha is involved with Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH), Women in Tennessee Hospitality and Tourism (WITHT), and the tnAchieves mentor program.

Recent recognition includes being a Nashville Emerging Leader Award (NELA) Top 5 Industry Finalist (2017) and the Presidential Above and Beyond award from Nashville Cable (2016). She has a bachelor's degree in management/marketing from Park University (Magna Cum Laude), is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and in late 2016 earned a Foundations in 21st Century Leadership certificate from Lipscomb University.

Nekasha is married to Michael Pratt, an Assistant Principal with Metro Nashville Public Schools, and together they have a son Jayden and daughter Makaila. In her free time she likes to travel, cook, dance and volunteer in her community.

I love the creativity and diversity of Nashville! From our food and music to arts and languages - they all reflect cultural and creative excellence.

DR. AMA ARTHUR ROWE

Nominated by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,
Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter



DR. AMA ARTHUR ROWE

Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Medical Director, Complex Behavioral Services, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Rowe, a native Nashvillian, has lived and attended schools in Iowa, Louisiana, Georgia and Virginia. In 2001 she joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She also collaborates with the VUMC Transition Management Office and Care Navigation Center in her role as the Medical Director of Complex Behavioral Services. In 2017, Dr. Rowe was the recipient of the Vanderbilt University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Clinical Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is also an assistant professor in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky, training physician assistant students through their Community Faculty program.

Dr. Rowe received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Spelman College and is a graduate of Meharry Medical College, where she was the recipient of the Rafael D. Hernandez Award for Excellence in Psychiatry. Her experiences as an American Psychosomatic Society Scholarship Recipient and conducting research at the Vanderbilt Diabetes Research Center solidified her interest in the intersection of physical and mental health. Dr. Rowe completed her residency in General Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University where she was Chief Resident, served on the Board of Directors for the Medical Society of Virginia, and was a delegate to the American Medical Association. She remained at VCU to complete her fellowship in Consultation and Liaison Psychiatry, and is double board-certified in Psychiatry and Psychosomatic Medicine.

Dr. Rowe provides biopsychosocial assessments, develops comprehensive and behavioral care plans, and strengthens communication between patients, family members and medical teams.

Dr. Rowe is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and has served as the Health Promotion Chairman, Environmental Ownership Chairman and on the Graduate Advisory Council for Pi Chapter at Fisk University. She is one of the founders of the Ladies of Virtue Cotillion and Gentlemen of Valor Beautillion, both sponsored by Word of Life Christian Center International, where she also serves as a Youth Minister. Dr. Rowe is married to her college sweetheart and Morehouse College graduate Emmanuel Rowe, PhD, and they are the proud parents of three “SpelHouse Babies”, Jael (8), Emmanuel II (6) and Ezekiel (2).

My favorite thing about Nashville is that even after all of my moves over the years, it always manages to feel like home!

CORISSA WIEST

Nominated by Pathway Women Business Center



CORISSA WIEST, MACC, MBA, CPA

Co-Founder and President,
Tailored Etiquette

A mother, wife, entrepreneur and service disabled veteran, Corissa lives without limits. Originally from Chewelah, Washington, she joined the United States Air Force in 1999. As a Security Forces member, she spent ten years, residing in five different states and four different countries. She held positions such as Reports and Analysis Technician, Flight Sergeant and Training Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. Corissa completed a total of four combat deployments in Kyrgyzstan and in Iraq. While attached to an United States Army unit during her last combat deployment to Iraq in 2007, Corissa was injured and was subsequently medically separated from the USAF in 2009.

During her military career, Corissa completed an Associates in Applied Sciences in Criminal Justice from the Community College of the Air Force, an Associates in Arts from Brevard Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Accounting from the University of Central Florida, a master's degree in Accountancy and Business Administration from the University of Texas Pan American and Rio Grande Valley.

Relocating in 2011, Corissa took a position as the Lead Operational Support Technician with the FBI in McAllen, Texas. She conducted financial analysis and forensic accounting procedures on numerous EB-5 regional corruption, Medicare fraud and bank fraud cases. She coordinated with the Securities and Exchange Commission on white collar crime violations and provided support to special agents and intelligence analysts with responsibility for key components in case progression and case management.

Corissa and her family moved to Franklin in 2014. After passing her CPA exams, Corissa founded Synergistic Solutions, a project management company that focuses on governmental projects, regulations and compliance for small businesses. In October 2017, she also launched a formal etiquette training company, Tailored Etiquette with her business partner and best friend, Jane Anne Miller out of the Nashville City Club.

Since moving to Tennessee only a few short years ago, Corissa has served as the vice president of The Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County, director and treasurer of the Kiwanis Club of Nashville, treasurer and co-founder of the female CEO roundtable group STELA, social committee member for the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, Bunker Labs member and other board member positions throughout the greater Middle Tennessee area.

My favorite thing about Nashville is the energy. Every day I am energized by the happiness of the people who I see!

ANGELA REEVES

Nominated by National Association of
Women Business Owners, Nashville Chapter



ANGELA REEVES

Owner, Nashville Eggz LLC and
BG Eggz LLC

Angela is the current franchise owner of Wild Eggs, an upscale breakfast brunch and lunch restaurant, in Nashville and Bowling Green. Angela began her restaurant career at fifteen years old as a server and continued throughout college in service and management opportunities. She found a passion for the industry and knew one day she wanted to own her own restaurant. Angela graduated with an MBA from Western Kentucky University in 2003. She moved to Louisville where she worked in marketing and development in the hospitality field and for a financial planning firm. She fell in love with Wild Eggs while in Louisville, and after twelve years decided to follow her dream of entrepreneurship.

In 2014 Angela opened Wild Eggs in Bowling Green, her hometown. In 2016, Wild Eggs in downtown Nashville was opened, and in 2018 Wild Eggs in Bellevue will open. While her passion for the restaurant industry is her driving force professionally, her personal passion is for serving people and the community. In each place she has lived, she has dedicated her time and talents to worthy causes and organizations. She was on the board of Zoom Group in Louisville, KY for six years where she sat as chairman for two terms, and now sits on the board of NAWBO Nashville, helping to propel and empower women entrepreneurs. Angela continues to be involved at WKU as a mentor and business study through many business classes, organizations and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

In 2016, Angela began international mission work and fell in love with the country and people of Haiti. She continues to travel to Haiti quarterly, working with Haitian Christian Mission and Wholehearted Home. In 2017 Angela began the process of adoption from Haiti and is patiently awaiting the arrival of her future child over the next few years.

Angela calls both Bowling Green and East Nashville home, residing in both communities throughout her week, and attends Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. Although free time is scarce, she enjoys traveling, yoga, hiking, and live music when she can!

I love the diversity of Nashville - specifically its people, neighborhoods and food!

EMILY PASSINI

Nominated by Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee



EMILY PASSINI

Partner, Greenlight Media Strategies

Emily is a partner at Greenlight Media Strategies — a woman owned and operated political consulting firm specializing in direct mail, voter targeting and branding. Greenlight has offices in Nashville, Brooklyn and Washington D.C. With nearly two decades of experience in campaign management, coalition building and grassroots advocacy, Emily has an impressive track record of winning tough fights. As the Tennessee House Democratic Caucus Director in 2006, Emily held House Democrats in the majority without losing a single seat. It was the first time in a decade that Democrats did not suffer a net loss.

Named a "2016 Top 40 Under 40" by the American Association of Political Consultants, Emily has worked on campaigns in more than 30 states. She has served as a Political Director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) in Washington D.C. where she oversaw the strategic and spending decisions in 13 states across the country. She has also served as the Deputy Political Director for the New Jersey Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee. Additionally, Emily served in the administration of former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen.

A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Emily holds a bachelor's degree from Rhodes College, and a master's degree from the University of Memphis. A member of the organizing committee that launched Emerge Tennessee - the 17th state affiliate of Emerge America, she is currently serving as the Board Chair. Emily also serves on the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee Board of Directors.

Emily lives in Nashville with her husband, George Scoville, and their three dogs, Juno, Tater and Buck Owens.

Three words: Let's go Preds!

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Alpha Delta Omega Chapter of AKA

KATIE PREVOST

Women in Technology

SHELLEY WALKER

All About Women

JESSICA RICH

Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta

REGINA HENRY

Women in Higher Education in Tennessee

LARHONDA MAGRAS

YWCA Nashville and Middle Tennessee

DR. GRAVELY GRIFFIN

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Women's Political Collaborative

ANGELA ELIS NELSON

National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Metro Nashville Chapter

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The 2018 ATHENA Patrons Society proudly supports the ATHENA Alumnae Scholarship and the incredible accomplishments of outstanding women in our community. Now in its seventh year of existence, this sponsorship level was established to sustain and improve upon ATHENA's success and has raised over \$95,000 in support of the ATHENA fund, which includes the annual \$5,000 ATHENA Alumnae Scholarship.

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Congratulations to **Kelly Dixon** and **Michelle Meyers** and their fellow nominees on being nominated for the 2018 ATHENA Awards & Scholarship Program!

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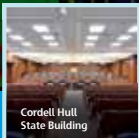
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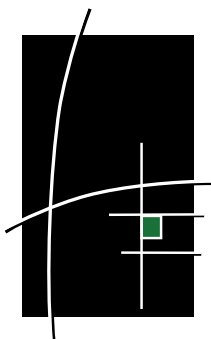
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