

Athena award honorees showcase dynamic women in Nashville business

[Jessica Bliss](#), USA TODAY NETWORK – Tennessee Published 12:45 p.m. CT March 23, 2018



(Photo: Submitted)

Attorney Nancy Corley and political consultant Emily Passini were honored Thursday night at the [2018 Athena awards program](#).

Each year during Women's History Month, Nashville is one of more than 500 communities across the country to recognize female leaders with the Athena award.

Recipients set themselves apart through their career success, service and encouragement of women.



Nancy Corley was honored with the 2018 Athena Award at an event at City Winery. (Photo: Submitted)

Corley was honored with the 2018 Athena Award, and Passini received the Young Professional Leadership Award.

Corley, [an attorney and partner at Corley Henard Lyle Langford PLC](#), represents domestic violence victims. She volunteers with numerous Nashville organizations, including Salvus Center, A Step Ahead, Children are People, PATHS and League of Women Voters.

Passini is [a partner at Greenlight Media Strategies](#), a woman-owned and operated political consulting firm. She is a past Tennessee House Democratic Caucus director, served as a political director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee in Washington, D.C., and worked on former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen's administration.

The annual event is hosted by CABLE, [a Nashville professional women's networking group](#).



Emily Passini (Photo: Submitted)

This year's Athena nominees were: Cara Aaron, Marci Butler-Holt, Elaine Boyd, Judge Sheila Calloway, Theresa Carl, Olivia Cloud, Corley, Kelly Dixon, Kimberly Estep, Toni Fitzgerald, Honorable Brenda Gilmore, Cindee Gold, Bridgette Long Hickey, Patricia James, Carla Jarrell, Judy Spencer, Deanna Steele, Honorable Aleta Trauger, Belva Weathersby and Gail Carr Williams.

Young professional nominees were: Jennifer Bennett, Keena Brown-Alexander, Veronica Clark, Katherine Daniels, Tracy DeTomas, Kristen Heggie, Tassany Henderson, Jaleesa Johnson, Sabrina Knowlton, Dr. Shanell L. McGoy, Michelle Myers, Passini, Erin Palmer Polly, Anca Pop, Nekasha Pratt, Angela Reeves, Dr. Ama Arthur Rowe and Corissa Wiest.

The event also included a scholarship award to Middle Tennessee high school students and other young women to continue their education. This year Athena presented \$10,000 in scholarships to eight students: Madison Bridges, Vasudhasri Devarasetty, Constance Fonseca, Allison Higginbotham, Kristi Maisha, Sophia Taylor, Hannah Turpen and Marley Wisby.

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