

YWCA Career Women of Achievement
Media Fact Sheet

This year marks the 43rd annual recognition of outstanding businesswomen in Cincinnati through the ***YWCA Career Women of Achievement*** award program. The event has grown to be the largest luncheon event at Duke Energy Convention Center and throughout the Midwest, featuring nationally recognized speakers and drawing an average of 2,000 attendees, using the full capacity of the center. However, due to the Corona Virus, this year’s event will be televised and streamed via WCPO 9.

<p>When is this year’s YWCA Career Women of Achievement broadcast?</p>	<p>Thursday, May 26, 2022 7 -8 pm Televised & streamed via WCPO 9</p>
<p>Who are the co-chairs for the event?</p>	<p>Former Career Women of Achievement Honorees Deborah Gentry Davis, Vice President of Human Resources, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati & Jodi Geiser, retired partner, EY.</p>
<p>What is special about this year’s event?</p>	<p>This year the program will be broadcast and streamed with upwards of 35,000 viewing. An original spoken word piece, written for this year’s broadcast, will be performed by local artist Siri Imani.</p> <p>YWCA Greater Cincinnati has been serving the neediest populations of our community for 153 years. As one of our three pillars, Empowerment & Economic Advancement of Women & Girls, the YWCA launched the Career Women of Achievement in 1980 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • showcase role models for women in the workplace. • challenge local companies to ensure that they were acknowledging the contributions made by their female employees and promoting them accordingly • raise money for YWCA programs that would aid, inspire and empower other women. <p>The inaugural 1980 Career Women of Achievement banquet attracted 400 attendees, honored eight outstanding career women and raised a respectable \$20,000.</p> <p>This year marks the 43rd time that we will celebrate women and the individual and collective contributions they make to the modern workplace. This world-class event was viewed by nearly 16,000 households in 2021, raises critical funds that directly support local programs, and with this year’s class, has honored 346 outstanding women.</p>

<p>Who are the 2022 Honorees?</p>	<p>Jennifer Davis, President, Feminine Care, Procter & Gamble Chandra Mathews-Smith, Chief Community Engagement Officer, United Way of Greater Cincinnati Nerissa E. Morris, Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources & Diversity Officer, Cincinnati Children's Elizabeth Pierce, President & CEO, Cincinnati Museum Center Regina Carswell Russo, Founder/CEO, Right Now Communications Jeanne Schroer, President & CEO, Catalytic Development Funding Corp of Northern Kentucky Melissa Stevens, Chief Digital Officer, Head of Digital Marketing, Fifth Third Bank Kristen Hall Wevers, SVP, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, UC Health</p>
<p>How are the Career Women of Achievement chosen?</p>	<p>Each year an independent panel of community leaders selects eight women who exemplify personal career success, dynamic leadership qualities, and the unique ability to serve as role models. 2022 Judges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Bernadino Bailey, Director, Greater Cincinnati Water Works • Stacey Browning, Growth Consultant, Multiply Impact Ventures • Dave Foxx, Chairman, d.e. Foxx • Albert Smitherman, President, Brewster Pumping/Jostin Construction • Pam Weber, Senior Vice President PNC Real Estate Banking, PNC Bank
<p>What does the Career Women of Achievement Award recognize?</p>	<p>The area's most long-standing local women's business award, the YWCA Career Women of Achievement Award was established in 1980 by the YWCA to increase community awareness and appreciation of the diverse contributions of women in the work force and in the community. The annual award and event honors eight Greater Cincinnati businesswomen who exemplify personal career success, dynamic leadership qualities and the unique ability to serve as role models. Each of these women has benefited from strong mentors and each embraces her role as a mentor for women and young girls coming after them.</p>
<p>How many women has the YWCA recognized since starting the Career Women of Achievement luncheon?</p>	<p>Overall, 338 women have been honored over the last 42 years, including corporate executives, financial advisors, entrepreneurs, human resource specialists, healthcare experts, artists and compliance and government affairs professionals.</p>

<p>What does the YWCA do to encourage young women new to their careers?</p>	<p>Guided by its motto "to lift as we climb", the YWCA Academy of the Career Women of Achievement created the YWCA Rising Star program to honor and support women ages 25-45 who are outstanding performers and demonstrate a potential to attain marked achievement in their careers. Since 2002, nearly 930 dynamic professional women have been identified as rising stars. These women learn from and network with members of the Academy and with each other through roundtables, panels and book discussions, social events and nonprofit board service.</p>
<p>What does the YWCA do to encourage teenage girls to identify a career path and seek continuing education?</p>	<p>The Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship has positively impacted more than 180 young women for the past 29 years in their pursuit of higher education. These scholarships are awarded to female Black senior high school students for their ability to overcome hardship, academic achievements and qualities of leadership, extracurricular activities and community service.</p> <p>The scholarship upholds the vision and leadership Mamie Earl Sells provided to the community and the YWCA. She was continually involved with young people and promoted programs that encouraged them to improve their personal lives and career opportunities.</p> <p>In addition, the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Scholarship Fund also recognizes women for their involvement in YWCA programs that will allow them to complete their education. The Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank as Trustee, was created to enable, empower and uplift young girls and women. This support is critical for YWCA clients to secure employment and financial stability necessary for independence and self-sufficiency.</p>
<p>More Information</p>	<p>Please visit www.ywcacincinnati.org for more details or our Facebook page YWCA Greater Cincinnati</p>