

YWCA Tribute Awards

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The YWCA West Central Michigan has selected seven women to be honored at the 2018 annual Tribute Awards. The Tribute Awards have honored more than 200 women representing a distinguished sorority of leaders and trailblazers. The seven women will be honored in several areas for their efforts in the Grand Rapids community, including advocacy, arts, business, management, industry and labor, community service, professions, sports, fitness, wellness and as a student. Here is a look at this year's winners' inspirations and how they felt about being selected for the Tribute Awards:

IF YOU GO

2018 YWCA Tribute Awards

Annual awards luncheon to honor remarkable women by YWCA West Central Michigan

When: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Where: DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW in downtown Grand Rapids.

Tickets: Reservations \$65/seat: bit.ly/ywca-2018tribute.

ADVOCACY AWARD

TERESA HENDRICKS

Executive director/senior litigator, Migrant Legal Aid



Nominator said: "Teresa has advocated tirelessly and effectively on behalf of two groups of people in need of outstanding advocates — migrant farm workers and women with breast cancer — so she is most deserving of the 2018 YWCA Tribute Award for Advocacy.

"Teresa Hendricks has led Grand Rapids-based nonprofit Migrant Legal Aid for the past 22 years as its executive director and senior litigator.

"Teresa and MLA have won ground-breaking cases with lasting impact for migrant farm workers, have pushed the courts to expand legal remedies for them, and have advocated for change when public policies threatened harm.

"As her friend and MLA board member Natalia Gomez was dying from cancer, Teresa promised her she would promote one more bill to the Legislature to enact a law that would have helped Gomez's doctors to discover Gomez's hereditary cancer earlier, and would help parents make informed decisions for their children's health.

"Introduced just recently, the 'Early Detection Matters' bill calls for family practitioners to gather and examine family histories and to refer patients for counseling about their risks for hereditary cancers."

She said: "I've always been grateful for all that the YWCA does for women in this community, so when I learned that Mark Hanisch nominated me for the Advocacy award, seconded by (state) Rep. Winnie Brinks, I felt extremely honored. And, when I looked at the names of past honorees, I realized that I'm standing in the shadow of many women I hold in high esteem. My own board secretary, Doretha Ardoin, was a recipient in the 1990s. I hope the awards continue to motivate women to be brave, take action and believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference."

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOR AWARD

JEN SCHOTTKE

Vice president of operations, Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Michigan



Nominator said: "Jen embodies YWCA's values. She is intentional about inclusion. Recognizing a co-worker's talent for photography, Jen orchestrated the 2017 ArtPrize installation titled 'We Are Construction.'

"Jen just sparkles. Her charismatic, warm and engaging leadership style draws people together and facilitates collaborations across industry and community.

"Her glass is perpetually half full and on its way to full. A plaque in Jen's office reads, 'Work Hard + Be Nice To People.' She is working tirelessly to lead a Talent Revolution. She epitomizes, 'You go girl!'"

She said: "I feel shocked and absolutely honored. I love what I do. Every day, as a trade association professional, I get to act as a connector. I connect businesses to resources, people to training programs, students to careers ..., and everything I do benefits someone other than me. So, to have my nominator look into our organization and say that this work matters ..., it means more than I can ever express. Also, anything I can do to put women in construction at the forefront of the industry, is incredibly important to me. Young girls and young women should look at this industry as they dream about what they want to be and know they have a place in it. Construction has been very good to me, and I am committed to seeing the growth of a diverse construction workforce."

PROFESSIONS AWARD

BARBARA WYNN

Physician, emergency care specialist



Nominator said: "Dr. Wynn's leadership is evident in her role at the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program and also in her role as an emergency department physician.

"When the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program started in 1996, Barbara was the program's first choice to serve as medical director and she graciously accepted.

"Since that day, she has made herself available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 22 years.

"Barbara is active in her synagogue and continues to care for her elderly mother. Despite significant personal loss in her life, she remains an amazing example of strength and determination.

"Dr. Wynn is truly an inspiration to all who know her and incredibly deserving of a Tribute Award."

She said: "When I was told, I was incredibly amazed. For years, I supported the Tribute Award events and I was so impressed by the woman and students who received the awards, and I'm pleased that the things I care about other people care about as well."

STUDENT HONOREE AND YWCA JUDY LLOYD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

LAUREN HUDSON

Senior, Caledonia High School



Nominator said: "Lauren is by far the best candidate I can recommend for a distinction such as this. She is a young lady who has overcome many battles, but has never once faltered in her determination, therefore inspiring others by her example.

"Lauren is a student council member, homecoming parade coordinator, diversity council member and was selected to serve as our senior leader to the Positive School Climate program. Her leadership does not stop at school.

"Lauren serves as the youth ambassador for the Children's Healing Center in Grand Rapids and has relationships with younger students throughout the USA and the world who are battling Perthes disease.

"She is a 4.0 student who has dual enrolled in college coursework for the past two years."

"I present to you an amazing woman who has overcome so much and yet puts others before herself with deep compassion and a commitment to making life better for each individual who passes into her life."

She said: "I was very shocked since I didn't know Mrs. Green nominated me. I was so excited and proud to have been chosen for this award."

ARTS AWARD

COLLEEN HOLMES

Teacher, Ottawa Hills High School



Nominator said: "Colleen Holmes is a 10-year art teacher currently teaching at Grand Rapids Public Schools Ottawa Hills High School. Colleen has demonstrated her art leadership at a young age.

"Colleen reflects the values of the YWCA in so many ways. She embraces diversity and believes it is the fabric that makes us great. She searches it out in her own life and is using art as an outlet for self-expression.

"She knows art can change the conversation on race and opening minds of eliminating racial biases. She promotes peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all by believing in her students and using the universal language of art as a platform.

"She is truly committed and an innovative art teacher who values her students as individuals and immerses herself in supporting them to be successful."

She said: "I was unaware I was nominated for the award until I received the phone call that I was selected. I felt stunned, incredibly happy and overwhelmingly humbled by the news. It takes a great deal of time as well as a concerted effort to do one's job while actively attempting to effectuate change. To hear that someone had recognized my efforts was an incredible affirmation that I was doing something right. It made me incredibly grateful for the support system that I have that has provided me the support and encouragement to grow in my leadership throughout my life. I was also incredibly excited to have the opportunity to bring to focus the amazing things that my students at Ottawa Hills have had the opportunity to create and be a part of."

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

CAROLYN KING

Child and adolescent psychiatrist, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services



Nominator said: "In bringing Reach Out to Youth to Grand Rapids, Carolyn has identified new communities with the area with whom to engage, including the Hispanic population in urban Grand Rapids.

"Carolyn created an engaging and educational activity book for the program that, while first available in English, has now been translated into Spanish, French and will soon be available in Polish, Chinese and Arabic.

"Dr. King has been honored with inclusion in the book created by Crystal R. Emery fittingly titled, 'Against All Odds,' Celebrating Black Women in Medicine."

"She is a woman with a mission and a vision that I believe aligns perfectly with the YWCA Tribute Award."

She said: "I feel grateful for the Recognition that Reach Out to Youth is a necessary part of our community, bringing children into their neighborhood medical school to learn about the human body and reproductive functions. Demystifying the human body and inspiring them to go into STEM careers."

SPORTS, FITNESS & WELLNESS AWARD

DANA LEE

Founder and executive director, EmbodyGR



Nominator said: "Dana is a teacher by trade and by heart. She has become one of Grand Rapids' most sought-after and recognized yoga professionals. Instead of opening her own studio, she decided to create a nonprofit entity called EmbodyGR to combine yoga, justice and community building.

"Dana is a woman who is constantly asking: 'Who needs to be included? Whose voice do I need to be listening to in order to challenge my privilege as a white woman?' These questions flow naturally out of her.

"Her vision for wellness extends into the realm of health science and measurable impact. Her work is being tracked by Spectrum Health.

"It might be hard to measure scientifically, but it is worth noting how lives are being changed and our community is being impacted ... one yoga class at a time."

She said: "It felt humbling and invigorating to be nominated."

YWCA HELEN CLAYTOR ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ariana Garcia: East Kentwood High School

Medina Sobic: City High School

Damaris Vailmencho: Innovation Central High School