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### **Charlotte SmartCEO Announces the Winners of its Inaugural Brava Awards Program**

*40 of Charlotte's top female business leaders to be recognized in  
Charlotte SmartCEO's 2016 Brava Awards program*

**Charlotte, NC (July 13, 2016)** — Charlotte SmartCEO is pleased to announce the winners in its inaugural Brava Awards program. The Brava Awards celebrate the distinguished achievements of 40 high-impact business leaders in Greater Charlotte. Brava award winners combine their irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit with a passion for giving back to the community, and are exemplary leaders of both their companies and their communities. The inaugural class collectively generates more than \$24.69 billion in annual revenue and employs more than 53,800 individuals. The winners will be profiled in *Charlotte SmartCEO* magazine and celebrated at an awards ceremony on September 13, 2016 at The Fillmore Charlotte.

*Please see below for a complete list of winners and for program details. To share in the excitement leading up to the event, follow us @SmartCEO #BravaAwards.*

“Brava winners possess the hallmark qualities of successful leaders — vision, passion, compassion, dedication, perseverance. Each winner in this inaugural class exhibits these qualities in all facets of her life, from running her business to tending to her family and donating time and resources to philanthropic initiatives,” says Jaime Nesper-Zawmon, president of SmartCEO. “We are honored to recognize a group of Charlotte women who are truly making a difference in the world.”

The Charlotte Brava Awards ceremony on September 13, 2016, is an expected sell-out event where more than 300 local executives and guests will gather and celebrate their noteworthy achievements. The event will kick off with a cocktail reception, followed by a video-packed awards ceremony and a final, inspirational toast to the female leaders of Greater Charlotte.

Charlotte



SmartCEO's

**BRAVA  
AWARDS**  
Honoring top female CEOs

## **2016 Brava Awards**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Fillmore Charlotte  
820 Hamilton St., Charlotte, NC 28206

**Attire:** Business Cocktail

## **2016 Brava Winners**

**Georgia Harris Krueger** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Ada Jenkins Center

**Brenda Harris**

BPN Healthcare Concepts

**Isabel Gonzalez**

Century 21 Providence

**Jenni Gaisbauer** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library  
Foundation

**Ann Clark** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

**Karen Calder** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Classroom Central

**Karen Swope**

CSI Property Management

**Julie Haack**

Donald Haack Diamonds, Inc.

**Kim McDonald**

Elite Resources Premier Staffing

**Suzy Johnson**

Employee Benefit Advisors of the  
Carolinas, LLC

**Angela H. Woods** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council

**Carrie C. Howell** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Hospitality House of Charlotte

**Jennifer Guthrie**

In-Flight Crew Connections

**Barbara McCall**

Ladd, McCall & Associates, CPAs, PA

**Liz Etheredge**

Mecklenburg Paint Co. Inc.

**Brandy Milazzo**

Milazzo Schaffer Webb Law, PLLC

**Pamela C. Smith**

Morrison Smith Jewelers Inc.

**Dr. Cheryl Richards** (*Nonprofit winner*)

Northeastern University - Charlotte

**Faith Glasgow**

Peak Limousine, LLC

**Angela Mastoras Key**

Premier Resources & Premier  
Healthcare Resources

**Robin Pugh**

Queen Associates, Inc.

**Dr. Holly Clemens**

Queen City Health Center

**Debbie Warren** (*Nonprofit winner*)

RAIN

**Cindy Praeger**

Rhythm Systems

**Amanda W. Stophel**

Service Pros Installation Group, Inc.

**Penny L. Benkeser**

Servpro of Northwest Charlotte, Lincoln  
and Gaston Counties



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Charlotte



### **2016 Brava Winners (ctd.)**

#### **Naomi Reale**

Sisco Fire & Safety

#### **Kristen Prestwood**

Spark By Design

#### **Elaine Creasser**

Tile Collection

#### **Heather Hanes Thompson**

Trinity Partners

#### **Delaine M. Mead**

Valuebiz Office Furniture

### **2016 Brava Executive Category Winners**

#### **Jill Philmon**

Ballantyne Country Club

#### **Lara Simmons Nichols**

Duke Energy

#### **Vicki Hafele**

Duncan-Parnell Inc.

#### **Sandi Thorman**

GreerWalker LLP

#### **Bethany Khashman**

ImagineSoftware

#### **Julie Ayers**

LBA Haynes Strand, PLLC

#### **Marie McLucas**

Primax Properties LLC

#### **Shikha Kashyap**

Syntelli Solutions

#### **Rebecca Hardin**

Verigent, LLC

### **About the Brava Awards**

The Brava Awards program celebrates high-impact female business leaders in three categories: CEOs, Executive Directors of Nonprofits, and C-suite executives. Brava award winners combine their irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit with a passion for giving back to the community, and are exemplary leaders of both their companies and their communities. They encourage local philanthropy, mentor up-and-coming leaders and set their companies on the path to tremendous growth. Each year, an independent committee of local business leaders selects winners based on company growth, community impact and mentoring. SmartCEO shares their inspiring stories in *SmartCEO* magazine and celebrates their success at a high-energy awards gala.

### **About SmartCEO**

SmartCEO's mission is to educate and inspire the business community through its award-winning magazine, connections at C-level events and access to valuable online resources. SmartCEO's integrated media platforms reach decision makers in the Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Long Island, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC, metropolitan areas.

For more information about the 2017 Brava Awards nomination process and sponsorship opportunities, email Melissa Sawyer at [melissa@smartceo.com](mailto:melissa@smartceo.com).

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