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 Nespor-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.
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
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.

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