ATHENA finalists announced

By: Velvet Spicer   October 23, 2019

The Women's Council of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce Inc. has chosen 15 area business, nonprofit and community leaders as finalists for its 2020 ATHENA International Awards. Twelve women have been chosen as ATHENA Young Professional Award finalists.

The ATHENA Award is given annually to a professional female leader who has demonstrated significant achievements in business, community service and the professional advancement of other women.

The 2020 finalists include:
• Marlene Bessette, president and CEO, Catholic Family Center;
• Donna Brink Fox, senior associate dean of academic and student affairs, Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester;
• Stephanie Caffera, partner, Nixon Peabody LLP;
• Nancy Catarisano, managing partner, Insero & Co. CPAs LLP;
• Kelly Gagan, vice president, institutional advancement, Nazareth College of Rochester;
• Gidget Hopf, president and CEO, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes and the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired;
• Heidi Macpherson, president, the College at Brockport, State University of New York;
• Julie Marsiglio, director of major gifts, United Way of Greater Rochester Inc.;
• Colleen Matteson, Rochester market president, Bank of America;
• Arlette Miller Smith, associate professor, English, and director, African American studies, St. John Fisher College;
• Deana Porterfield, president, Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary;
• Sujatha Ramanujan, managing director, Luminate, NextCorps Inc.;
• Kelly Reed, president and CEO, Huther Doyle Memorial Institute Inc.;
• Arline Santiago, senior vice president, general counsel and director, legal, ESL Federal Credit Union;
• Sharon Stiller, managing partner, Rochester office, and director of the employment law practice, Abrams Fensterman.

The internationally recognized awards, which honor and empower women in business, will be presented Jan. 23 at the 34th Annual ATHENA International Awards dinner.