

Capital Region Chamber Women of Excellence Award Recipients

2015

Distinguished Career

Barbara Smith, City of Albany

Excellence in the Professions

Trudy Hall, Emma Willard School

Excellence in Sales and Marketing

Laura Petrovic, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

Excellence in Management (1-99 employees)

Miriam Dushane, Linium Staffing

Excellence in Management (100+ employees)

Denise Gonick, MVP Health Care

Excellence in Business

Andrea Crisafulli Russo, Crisafulli Bros. Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Emerging Professional

Kelsey Carr, The Chazen Companies

2014

Distinguished Career

Meng-Ling Hsiao, GE Power & Water

Excellence in the Professions

Curran Street, Pride Center of the Capital Region

Excellence in Management 100+

Dr. Linda Richardson, Siena College

Excellence in Management 1-99

Renee Abdou-Malta, ValueOptions Inc.

Excellence in Sales & Marketing

Carol Nieckarz, UBS Financial Services

Excellence in Business

Amy Johnson, Capstone

Emerging Professional

Ashley Jeffrey, Girls Inc.

2013

Distinguished Career

Donna Lamkin, Chief Program Officer, Center for Disability Services

Emerging Professional

Kelly Brown Mateja, Director of Programs and Services, Colonie Senior Services

Excellence in Business

Faith A. Takes, President, Empire Education Corporation

Excellence in Management 100+

Joan Hayner, CMPE, CEO, CapitalCare Medical Group

Excellence in Management 1-99

Dr. Maryellen Gilroy, Vice President for Student Affairs, Siena College

Excellence in Sales and Marketing

Teresa Spadafora, Branch Manager, Vice President, First Niagara Bank

Excellence in the Professions

Sabrina Mosseau, BS, RN, OCN, Administrative Director/Medical Oncology, St. Peter's Health Partners

2012

Distinguished Career:

Susan Scrimshaw, President, The Sage Colleges

Excellence in Management (100+ employees):

Joanne Kugler, Chief Information Officer, GE Energy Power and Water Business

Excellence in Management (1-99 employees):

Susan Commanda, C.U.C.E., Chief Executive Officer, Hudson River Community Credit Union

Excellence in Business:

Lauren Payne, Principal/co-owner, Spiral Design Studio

Excellence in Professions:

Milinda Reed, Esq., Director, Domestic Violence Services, Unity House

Excellence in Sales or Marketing:

Carrie Hillenbrandt, CMP, Corporate Director of Sales and Marketing, BBL Hospitality

Emerging Professional:

Sara Brenner, Assist. VP for NanoHealth Initiatives; Program Director;
Assist. Professor of Nanobioscience, College of Nanoscale
Science and Engineering

2011

Distinguished Career:

Jane Golub, Director of In-Store Marketing, Price Chopper Supermarkets

Excellence in Management (100+ employees):

Katherine Pelham, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the Greater Capital Region

Excellence in Management (1-99 employees):

Marcia White, President & Executive Director, Saratoga Performing Arts Center

Excellence in Business:

Joella Viscusi, President, Ambient Environmental, Inc.

Excellence in Professions:

Sr. Charlene Bloom, CSJ, Professor of Communication Sciences Disorders, The College of Saint Rose

Excellence in Sales or Marketing:

Georgia Kelly, Assist. VP, Financial Advisor, The Clore Group at Merrill Lynch

Emerging Professional:

Dr. Anne Lauren Barba, Associate Professor, Dept. of Neurology, Albany Medical College

2010

Distinguished Career:

Noel Liberty, Founder and Director, The Music Studio

Excellence in Management (100+ employees):

Karen Carpenter-Palumbo, Commissioner, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Excellence in Management (1-99 employees):

Sandra Fox, Vice President and Director of Technology Operations, CHA, Inc.

Excellence in Business:

Pamela Cassick, CEO, The MailWorks

Excellence in the Professions:

Gina Castelli, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Siena College

Excellence in Sales or Marketing:

Nancy Tarabochia-Hart, Vice President and Relationship Manager for Key Private Bank, KeyBank National Association

Emerging Professional:

Heather LaVine, Director of Fan Development, Tri-City ValleyCats

2009

Distinguished Career:

Judith Sidel, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, University at Albany

Excellence in Management (100+ employees):

Mary Ellen Plass, RN, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Albany Medical Center

Excellence in Management (1-99 employees):

Roberta Berkowitz, President, National Law Enforcement Supply

Excellence in Business:

Lisa Norgrove, Business Partner, Rumors Day Spa and Hair Salon and Rumors IV Men

Excellence in the Professions

Kara Conway Love, Esq., Owner, Law Office of Kara Conway Love

Excellence in Sales and Marketing:

Maureen Lundberg, Charter and Special Event Coordinator/Owner, Albany Aqua Ducks and Trolleys, Inc.

Emerging Professional:

JulieAnn Calareso, Esq., Associate Attorney, Burke & Casserly, P.C.

2008

Distinguished Career:

Eileen Bagnoli, Executive Vice President/Secretary, Pioneer Bank

Excellence in Management (75+ employees):

Paula Stopera, President/Chief Executive Officer, Capital Communications Federal Credit Union

Excellence in Management (11-74 employees):

Stacy Fitch, General Manager, The Paradies Shops, Albany International Airport

Excellence in Management (1-10 employees):

Anne LaRoche, Manager of Technology & Information Systems, KAPL Inc.

Excellence in Business:

Missy Shorey, President/Chief Executive Officer, Shorey Public Relations

Excellence in the Professions

Katharine Briar-Lawson, Dean of the School of Social Welfare, University at Albany

Excellence in Sales or Marketing:

Sandra Nardoci, Associate Broker/Relocation Specialist, Prudential Manor Homes

Emerging Professional:

Rachel Zimolka, Senior Business Development Executive, Sunmark Federal Credit Union

2007

Distinguished Career:

Barbara J. McDonald, President, Marra's Pharmacy, Inc.

Excellence in Management (75+ employees):

Margaret M. Rudzinski, Principal and Resource Manager, Clough Harbour & Associates LLP

Excellence in Management (11-74 employees):

Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Senior Vice President, KeyBank NA

Excellence in Management (1-10 employees):

Rose U. Miller, Shareholder and Managing Director, DR Human Resources, LLC

Excellence in Business:

Kathleen Godfrey, President, Godfrey Financial Associates, Inc.

Excellence in the Professions:

Catherine Halakan, Senior Vice President for Human Resources, Albany Medical Center

Excellence in Sales and Marketing:

Lisa M. Clifford, Senior Vice President, Curran Investment Management

Emerging Professional:

Fatemeh (Shadi) Shahedipour-Sandvik, Assistant Professor and Scientist, College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) – Albany NanoTech, University at Albany

2006

Distinguished Career:

Sister Constance Casey, President and Chief Executive Officer, Academy of the Holy Names

Excellence in Management (75+ employees):

Patricia Bucklin, Executive Director, New York State Bar Association

Excellence in Management (11-74 employees):

Kelly Lovell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for Economic Growth

Excellence in Management (1-10 employees):

E. Kristen Frederick, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Community Foundation for the Capital Region

Excellence in Business (10+ Years):

Marri Aviza, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rumors Inc.

Excellence in the Professions:

Linda Krzykowski, Assistant Dean, MBA Programs, University at Albany School of Business

Excellence in Sales:

Regina "Gina" Mintzer, Director of Sales, Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau

2005

Distinguished Career:

Barbara Nagler, Ed.D., District Superintendent and CEO, Capital Region BOCES

Excellence in Management (Over 75 employees):

Nina Tyzik, Executive Vice President and Regional President, HSBC Bank USA

Excellence in Management (Under 75 employees):

Pamela Tobin, Executive Director, Downtown Albany Business Improvement District Inc.

Excellence in Business (2-9 Years):

Kimberly Adams Russell, President and COO, Frank Adams Jewelers

Excellence in the Professions:

Dawn Abbuhl, Psy.D., Director of Psychology, Kids Care Pediatric Services

Excellence in Sales:

Cheryl Richardson, Independent Sales Director, Mary Kay Cosmetics

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman:

Catherine Hedgeman, Associate, Hiscock & Barclay LLP

2004

Distinguished Career:

Jan Smith, Manager, Global Communications & Public Affairs, GE Energy

Excellence in Management (75+ Employees):

Patricia Ellis, Vice President, Quality and Regulatory Affairs, Albany Molecular Research Inc.

Excellence in Management (11-74 Employees):

Lillian M. Moy, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Excellence in Management (1-10 Employees):

Ruth H. Mahoney, Senior Vice President and Market Leader, Fleet Private Clients Group, FleetBoston Financial

Excellence in the Professions:

Sue Lehrman, Ph.D., President and Dean, The Graduate College of Union University

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman:

Bettyjo Howland Bouchey, Vericast Director, VersaTrans Solutions Inc.

2003

Distinguished Career

M.A. Maude Baum, Artistic Director, eba Dance Theatre

Excellence in Management (75+ Employees)

Linda Jackson-Chalmers, Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources, City School District of Albany

Excellence in Management, For Profit (11-74 Employees)

Tracy Metzger, President, TL Metzger & Associates LLC

Excellence in Management, Non Profit (11-74 Employees)

Teri Bordenave, President/CEO, Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region

Excellence in Management (1-10 Employees)

Erika Dietz, Partner, Mercury Web Solutions

Excellence in the Professions

Lorraine Power Tharp, Partner, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP

Excellence in Sales

Clare Mertz-Lee, Financial Consultant, Janney Montgomery Scott LLC

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Mary Bintz, Senior Vice President, Business Financial Services Commercial Division, Fleet Bank

2002

Distinguished Career:

Margery Whiteman, Director, Advancement Services, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Excellence in Management (Non-profit Sector):

Michel T. Kimball, Executive Director, ClearView Center, Inc.

Excellence in Management (Institution):

Anne F. Saile, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bellevue Woman's Hospital

Excellence in Management (Private Sector):

Sue A. Rosander, Senior Vice President and District Sales Manager, Eastern New York, KeyBank

Excellence in the Professions:

Hon. Leslie E. Stein, Supreme Court Justice, NYS Unified Court System

Excellence in Sales:

Kathleen Kozera Rowe, Vice President, ThinkOne

Excellence in Business (10 + years):

Nancy Hodes, President, Hodes Associates

Excellence in Business (2-9 years):

Lissa D'Aquanni, Owner/Chocolatier, The Chocolate Gecko

2001

Lifetime Achievement

Dr. Karen Hitchcock, President, University at Albany

Special Recognition

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Excellence in Business, 10+ years

Susan Novotny, President, The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza

Excellence in Management, Public Sector

Patricia Martinelli, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, New York State Office of the Attorney General

Excellence in Management, Non-Profit Sector

Amy Ertel Bellcourt, Vice President of Marketing/Chief Marketing Officer MVP Health Plan

Excellence in Management, Non-profit Sector

Sue Ellen Rose, Director of Supported Employment and Vocational Services Wildwood Programs, Inc.

Excellence in Management, Private Sector

Karen Tassey, MS, RN, CHE, Vice President, Patient Care Services Northeast Health – Albany Memorial Hospital/Samaritan Hospital

Excellence in the Professions

Elaine Houston, News Anchor/Reporter, WNYT/NewsChannel 13

Excellence in Sales

Jane Rothfield, Advertising Account Executive, WRGB/Channel 6

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman
Nan Mossey, Publications Manager, Times Union

2000

Rezsine Adams, community activist
Jane Altes, Ph.D., SUNY Empire State College
Judith Avner, Brain Injury Association of New York State
Judith Barnes, Ph.D., J.A. Barnes & Company
Betty Barnette, City of Albany
Eleanor Powell Bartlett, University of the State of New York
Marlene Belfort, Ph.D., Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health
Phoebe Powell Bender, community leader and volunteer
Liz Bishop, WRGB
Sr. Serena Branson, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
Mary Brizzell, Town of Colonie
Pamela Sawchuk Brown, Sawchuk, Brown Associates
Charlotte Buchanan, community leader
Nancy Burton, City of Albany
Deborah Campbell, New York State Police
Nancy Carey Cassidy, Picotte Companies
***Blanche Stover Clum**, suffragette and political activist
Elizabeth Coco, MicroKnowledge, Inc.
***Elizabeth Corning**, former first lady of Albany and expert horticulturist
Jo-Ann Costantino, The Eddy
Joann Crupi, *Times Union*
Matilda Cuomo, Mentoring U.S.A.
Helen Desfosses, Ph.D., Albany Common Council
Georgetta Dix, Refreshing Spring Church
Lt. Governor Mary Donohue, State of New York
Denise Farnan, LPGA Professional
Lucia Fischer, Capital Region Software Alliance
Lorraine Flaherty, Ph.D., Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health
Sheila Fuller, Town of Bethlehem
***Harriet Gibbons**, pioneer in education
***Elizabeth Gillette, M.D.**, suffragette and first upstate woman elected to the NYS Assembly
Mara Ginsberg, To Life!
***Winifred Goldring**, pioneer in NYS paleontology
Jane Golub, Golub Corporation
Hon. Victoria Graffeo, NYS Judiciary
Alice Green, Ph.D., Center for Law & Justice, Inc.
Karen Hitchcock, Ph.D., University at Albany
Jodye Holmes, community volunteer
***Stefanie Isser**, social activist and teacher of the Holocaust
Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Chris Jansing, NBC/MSNBC
Karen Johnson, former mayor of Schenectady

Carolyn Jones, *Capital District Business Review*
Grace Jorgensen, M.D., Bellevue Woman's Hospital
Sr. Maureen Joyce, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany
Mary Kahl, Ph.D., Albany Medical Center Foundation
Hon. Judith Kaye, NYS Judiciary
***Eliza Kellas**, pioneer in education
***Alice Kenney**, historian and author
Ruth Klepper, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
Margaret Krause, The Eddy
Rachel Kretser, NYS Office of the Attorney General
Mary Anne Krupsak, former NYS lieutenant governor
Gloria Lamere, Proctor's Theatre
***Sr. Ellen Lawlor**, former president and CEO, St. Peter's Hospital and founder, MercyCare Corporation
Martha Lepow, M.D., Albany Medical Center Hospital
Marya Levenson, Ph.D., North Colonie Central Schools
Noel Liberty, The Music Studio
Nancy Liddle, University Art Gallery, University at Albany
Judith Lyons, The Community Foundation for the Capital Region
Margaret Mancinelli-Cahill, Capital Repertory Theatre
Maria Markovics, United Tenants of Albany Inc.
Susan Mathews, Ph.D., DigiComm, LLC
Hedi McKinley, pioneer in broadcasting
Susan Meineker, Capital District Center for Independence
***Edythe Meserand**, pioneer in broadcasting
Christine Miles, Albany Institute of History & Art
Malinda Myers, community volunteer
Jeanne Neff, Ph.D., The Sage Colleges
Mary Nolan, R.N., Albany Medical Center Hospital
Antonia Coello Novello, M.D., NYS Department of Health
Katherine Pelham, United Way of Northeastern New York Inc.
Ruth Pelham, The Music Mobile, Inc.
Marilyn Pendergast, Urbach Kahn & Werlin PC
***Anna Eloise Pierce**, crusader for better housing conditions for women college students
Anne Pope, Albany Branch NAACP
Libby Post, Communication Services
Ersa Poston, NYS Department of Civil Service
Vera Rappazzo, Rappazzo Electric Co., Inc.
Joan Roberts, The Egg
***Sr. Blanche Rooney**, founder, The College of St. Rose
***Olivia Rorie**, civil rights and community activist
Virginia Pitkin Rossuck, Wildwood Programs, Inc.
Raona Roy, The Arts Center of the Capital Region
***Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage**, founder, Russell Sage College and philanthropist
Josephine Sano, Albany Central Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO)
Shelly Shapiro, United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York
Ellen Sinopoli, Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company
Marion Roach Smith, author and community activist
Mary Jane Smith, Unity House of Troy, Inc.
Sr. Anne Bryan Smollin, Ph.D., Counseling for Laity

Alethea (Thea) Snyder, 1 Data Way/1Call4All LLC

Jamienne Studley, Skidmore College

Madeline (Lyn) Taylor, Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce

Joan Townley, businesswoman, first chair of merged Albany and Colonie Chambers of Commerce

***Harriet Van Vranken**, pioneer in public education

Michele Vennard, Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau

***Frances Vosburgh, M.D.**, pioneer in women's health care and family planning

Dolores Wharton, community leader and volunteer

Benita Zahn, WNYT-NewsChannel 13

**Posthumously honored*

1999

Lifetime Achievement

Mary Lou Saetta-Gilman, Executive Artistic Director, Capitol Chamber Artists

Excellence in Management (Public)

Judy Genshaft, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University at Albany

Excellence in Management (Private)

Lauretta Chrys, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking, KeyBank

Excellence in Management (Non-Profit)

Jeanine Garab, Executive Director, Epilepsy Foundation of NENY

Excellence in Business (2-9 Years)

Jill Braverman-Panza, MD, CEO/Owner of a primary care internal medicine practice

Excellence in Professions

Kate Langdon Forham, Professor of Political Science, Siena College

Benita Zahn, Health Reporter and News Anchor, WNYT NewsChannel 13

Excellence in Sales

Carol Desmond, Account Executive, Times Union

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Laura Hagen, Executive Director, Capital District Center for Independence

1998

Lifetime Achievement

Virginia Rossuck, Executive Director, Wildwood Programs

Excellence in Business (10+ Years)

Susan M. Mathews, RN, Ph.D., President, Corporate Health Dimensions, Inc.

Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Eleanor P. Bartlett, Deputy Superintendent, Albany City Schools

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Kathleen A. Murray, Co-owner, The Shipyard Restaurant

Excellence in Management (Not-For-Profit Sector)

Bernadette R. Pedlow, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Seton Health System

Excellence in the Professions

Dr. Lorraine Flaherty, Research Scientist and Director of Molecular Genetic Program, Wadsworth Center

Excellence in Sales

Patsy Whitney, Broker, Coldwell Banker Prime Properties

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Cheryl Gnade, Assistant Director of Marketing, Northeast Career Planning

1997

Lifetime Achievement

Clara M. Hunt, Vice President-Facilities Management, Samaritan Hospital

Co-Recipients, Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Mary E. Brizzell, Supervisor, Town of Colonie

Nancy M. Burton, Comptroller, City of Albany

Lucille Marion, Vice President and Executive Director, Capital District Educational Opportunity Center (a division of Hudson Valley Community College)

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Patricia Sanders, Dean of Business, Siena College

Co-Recipients, Excellence in Management (Not-For-Profit Sector)

Kathryn Allen, President, HMO Conference of New York

Dorothy Reynolds, Manager of Marketing and Leasing, Rensselaer Technology Park

Excellence in Business (10 or More Years)

Judith Torel, President, The Sweat Shop of Albany, Inc.

Excellence in Business (2-9 Years)

Donna Nowak-Hughes, Executive Vice President, Nowak Associates, Inc.

Excellence in Professions

Marilyn A. Pendergast, CPA, Shareholder, Urbach Kahn & Werlin PC, Certified Public Accountants

Emerging Executive

Kathy Beam, Local Sales Manager, WTEN TV

1996

Lifetime Achievement

Gemma Vigliotti, Bellevue...The Woman's Hospital

Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Linda Blumenstock, Stratton VA Medical Center

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Jaruloch Whitehead, KeyCorp

Co-Recipients, Excellence in Management (Non-Profit Sector)

Christine Miles, Albany Institute of History & Art

Excellence in Business (10 or More Years)

Barbara Dennis, Beaux Visages Ltd.

Excellence in Business (2-9 Years)

Peggy O'Neill, The Center for Hearing

Excellence in the Professions

Liz Bishop, WRGB Broadcasting Inc.

1995

Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Karen Hitchcock, University at Albany

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Carol Montepare, Community Health Plan

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Maureen Fitzgerald, Capital District YMCA

Excellence in Business (10 or More Years)

Pamela Sawchuk Brown, Sawchuk Brown Associates

Excellence in Management, (Non-Profit Sector)

Raona Roy, RCCA: The Arts Center

Excellence in the Professions

Mae D'Agostino, Maynard, O'Connor, Smith, Catalinotto & D'Agostino

1994

Lifetime Achievement

Rhonda Childs, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Denise Mason, Fleet Bank of NY

Excellence in Business (2-9 Years)

Helen Volk, Owner, Beyond Clutter

Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Regina DuBois, Director of Operations, Office of the Albany County Executive

Excellence in the Professions

Marjorie Karowe, Esq.

Excellence in Management (Non-Profit Sector)

Mary Ann Finn, Executive Director, Hope House

Excellence in Business (10+ Years)

Gail Leonardo-Sundling, Owner, Delmar Bootery

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Maria Piccione, Manager of Business Development, Mallin, Mendel & Associates Architects P.C.

1993

Lifetime Achievement

Sister Ellen Lawlor, St. Peter's Hospital

Excellence in Business (2-9 Years)

Mary Scanlan, Scanlan Public Relations

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Alissa Quinn, Shearson Lehman Brothers

Excellence in Management (Non-Profit Sector)

Ann DiSarro, Senior Service Centers of the Albany Area, Inc.

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Dorothy Loftus, Standard Copy

Excellence in Profession

Susan Tatro, Albany County Executive's Office

Excellence in Business (10+ Years)

Audrey Hoffman, Audrey Hoffman Enterprises

Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Mary Dorian, New York State Department of Labor

1992

Lifetime Achievement

Joan Townley, Vice President of Business Environments by Ras

Excellence in Business (10+ Years)

Dr. Grace G. Jorgensen, Board President, Bellevue Hospital

Excellence in Business (5-9 Years)

Valerie A. DeLaCruz, Owner, DeLaCruz Design Group

Excellence in Business (2-4 Years)

Alma H. Mitchell, Managing Partner, Mitchell Management Associates

Emerging Executive/Professional Businesswoman

Rose A. Golden, Executive Director, Senior Care Connection

Excellence in Management (Non-Profit Sector)

R'Lou Ellson, Executive Director, American Red Cross, Albany Area Chapter

Excellence in Management (Private Sector)

Dr. Susan M. Mathews, President and Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Health Dimensions, Inc.

Excellence in Management (Public Sector)

Suzanne R. Brownrigg, Coordinator of Corporate Programs, Hudson Valley Community College