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Photos from previous ATHENA Awards presentations are available; email nicole@BarringtonChamber.com

BACC Announces ATHENA Recipient at Awards Luncheon Honoring Local Women Leaders

(Barrington, IL –5/29/2015) – The Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) announced the recipient of their 2015 ATHENA award during a special luncheon honoring local women leaders on Thursday, May 28 at the Biltmore Country Club in North Barrington. The 2015 ATHENA recipient is Dr. Amy Derick of Derick Dermatology. The event is hosted by BACC's Women's Biz Net (WBN), a network of women business and community leaders.

Three leading ladies were honored as ATHENA nominees during the event, including Barbara Alvarez of the Barrington Area Library, Christina Currie of Christina Currie Events, Inc., and Dr. Amy Derick of Derick Dermatology, for their dynamic contributions to their profession, the local community and peer mentoring. Selected by their peers, the nominations put these local women leaders on a prominent international list of leading women who stand out in their communities.

“The ATHENA Award was created in 1982 to illuminate inspiring women leaders that excel in their profession, give back to their communities, and most importantly, actively assist other women in achieving their full leadership potential, “ said BACC President/CEO Suzanne Corr. “These nominees have the distinction of impacting our community in profound and meaningful ways.”

Award winner Dr. Amy Jane Derick of Derick Dermatology is an instructor of clinical dermatology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a member of Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. She is involved in numerous professional societies, many in which she holds leadership roles, and involved in several community service organizations. She has written editorials, spoken on a variety of women's topics, and is an active volunteer for the Community Outreach Skin Cancer Screening program.

Nominee Barbara Alvarez is the Business Liaison Librarian at the Barrington Area Library and focuses on building partnerships with business owners, professionals and job seekers. She co-founded The Library OnConference, a free virtual conference for librarians across the country to share ideas. Alvarez supports female micro-entrepreneurs through the Global Fund for Women. She has received state and national recognitions and is an instructor at CareerPlace in Barrington where she helps target potential employers and coaches high level job seekers.

Nominee Christina Currie of Christina Currie Events, Inc. has received a number of awards for excellence, creativity and initiative. She was recently selected to lead the dedication festivities for launching the USS Illinois submarine. She mentors women business owners, and works with local high school students involved in the BHS Business Incubator Program. She has been selected as an International Nominee for the Best Wedding, won the NICE Chicago Excellence award for Best Social events numerous times and supports the Wish Upon a Wedding organization.

ATHENA, an international award, has been given in 500 cities and 8 countries. Recipients have included Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State; Kay Koplovitz, founder of USA Networks and the first women network president in television history; Pat Schroeder, former 12-term U.S. Congresswoman; Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Micki King, Olympic Gold Medalist

The Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce's Women's Biz Net (WBN) is a network of women empowering women. WBN offers monthly meetings and programs that bring relevant topics, networking opportunities and a forum for building relationships that can enhance your business aspirations and enrich your life. The monthly meetings are dedicated "To gather professional women to inspire, enrich, empower and benefit from the unique talents of extraordinary women!"

WBN's first ATHENA Leadership Award was presented to Joyce Palmquist, Executive Director of the Barrington Area Council on Aging (BACOA) in November 2012. The 2014 award was presented to Ellaine Sambo-Reyther, VP – Director, Trust & Estate Services at BMO Harris Bank.



Photo: Christina Currie, Recipient Dr. Amy Derick, and Barbara Alvarez

About the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC): The BACC (www.BarringtonChamber.com), founded in 1969, is an association of 800+ member businesses representing more than 1,800 employees dedicated to the success and prosperity of the 11 regional communities it serves: Barrington, Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Inverness, Kildeer, Lake Barrington, Long Grove, North Barrington, Port Barrington, South Barrington and Tower Lakes. BACC promotes economic opportunities, advocates the interests of business, offers programs for professional development and leadership, and works to foster a robust regional economy.

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