



Contact: Casto Communications  
stevecasto@castocommunications.com  
Telephone: 615.826.0826

For immediate release  
November 22, 2011

## **2012 NASHVILLE ATHENA AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED**

Twenty-eight of Nashville's most successful business women are in the running for the 2012 Nashville ATHENA Award. These outstanding candidates represent the best and brightest stars in the metropolitan business community.

Professional organizations across the region nominate outstanding women who best embody the goddess Athena, who is known for her strength, courage, wisdom and enlightenment, but most of all for her generosity. "The 2012 Nashville ATHENA Nominees are another great class of women from several diverse backgrounds and professions that contribute to their communities on a daily basis," said **Teresa Campbell**, Chair of the ATHENA Award Nominees and Judges Committee. "Each of them not only do a phenomenal job in their respective professions but, through their various organizations, they positively affect our community at large. "

The nominees for the 2012 Nashville ATHENA Award are:

**Paulette A. Allen**, Retired Supervisory U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer. Sponsored by Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee.

**Minty Ballard**, Retired Global Billing Director, State Street Corporation. Sponsored by National Coalition of 100 Black Women–Metropolitan Nashville Chapter.

**Rhonda Ray Bodie**, Special Investigator for Child and Adult Care, Tennessee Department of Human Services. Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

**Michelle Brock–Demps**, High Priority School Improvement Program Facilitator, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.–Upsilon Sigma Chapter.

**Constance L. Caldwell**, Registered Nurse (retired). Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.–Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter.

**Deborah A. Cole**, G.G., M.B.A., DM, President and CEO, Citizens Bank, CSB&T Bancorp, Inc. Sponsored by The Links, Inc.–Music City Chapter.

**Susan DePue**, President, Growth Pointe Strategies. Sponsored by National Association of Women Business Owners–Nashville Chapter.

**April Eaton**, Corporate Relations Manager, Allstate Insurance Company. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.–Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter.

**Beth Glascock**, Assistant Director, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Department of Orthopaedics. Sponsored by Junior League of Nashville.

**Debra Gould**, Education Consultant, United Ways of Tennessee and Grant Writer. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Nashville.

**Dr. Niyah E. Griffin**, Associate Principal of St. Edward School, Director of Independent School with the Tennessee Principals Association and Adjunct Professor at Trevecca Nazarene University. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.–Alpha Delta Omega Chapter.

**Ruth E. Johnson**, Associate Vice President for Advancement, Meharry Medical College. Sponsored by Tennessee Women's Forum.

**Rita Mitchell**, Senior Vice President and Manager–Middle Tennessee Private Client Services, First Tennessee Bank. Sponsored by YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

**Diane Neighbors**, Director–Vanderbilt Child and Family Center and Vice Mayor of Nashville and Davidson County. Sponsored by Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee.

**Laura Purswell**, SPHR, Senior HR Consultant & Affiliate, Glenda Copeland & Associates. Sponsored by Nashville Women's Breakfast Club.

**Dr. Jean Anne Rogers**, Optometrist. Sponsored by CABLE–Rutherford Chapter.

**Abby Rubinfeld**, Attorney At Law, Rubinfeld Law Office. Sponsored by Lawyers' Association for Women.

**Ivanetta Davis Samuels**, Deputy General Counsel, Meharry Medical College. Sponsored by The Links, Inc.–Nashville Chapter.

**Alma F. Sanford**, J.D., Principal, Alma Sanford Political Consulting. Sponsored by Women's Economic Council Foundation.

**Dr. Sharon Shaw–McEwen**, Professor–Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Social Work and President/CEO of The Centers for Family Life. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.–Pi Nu Omega Chapter.

**Sandy Stahl, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean, Office of the Dean of Students and Senior Lecturer, Women's & Gender Studies at Vanderbilt University. Sponsored by Women in Higher Education Tennessee.

**Patricia Stokes**, Sponsored by Jack and Jill of America, Inc.–Nashville Chapter.

**Laura Smith Tidwell**, Vice President–Corporate Affairs & Strategic Initiatives and Interim General Counsel, Nashville Electric Service. Sponsored by CABLE–Nashville Chapter.

**Anita M. Tipton**, Senior Compliance Specialist, Dialysis Clinic Inc. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.–Upsilon Psi Omega Chapter.

**Lolita D. Toney**, Pharmaceutical Sales Specialist, AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical. Sponsored by The Links, Inc.–Parthenon Chapter.

**Barbara Webb**, Account Director–Business Markets, Level 3 Communications. Sponsored by Women In Technology of Tennessee.

**Carolyn T. Wilson**, Director of Library Services, Beaman Library, Lipscomb University. Sponsored by Women's National Book Association.

**Marilyn Wyatt Harris**, Nurse Practitioner, KCA Medical Group. Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.–Nashville Alumnae Chapter.

The Nashville ATHENA Award Program honors business and professional women for their career successes, service to community, and encouragement of women. It seeks to inspire others to achieve excellence in their professional and personal lives. “This is my third year to be directly involved with the Nashville ATHENA Award Program,” says **Jan Maddox**, Chair of the 2012 Nashville ATHENA Award Program. “I am always amazed and in awe of all the ATHENA Nominees and their accomplishments. I congratulate all of the Nominees and look forward to a great year leading up to our gala event on Monday, March 26, 2012 at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center when we will recognize the next ATHENA recipient.”

The ATHENA Award Program came to Nashville in 1990, through the collaborative effort of local women’s organizations and in partnership with local businesses and individual sponsors. Since the program’s inception in Lansing, Michigan in 1982, more than 5,000 sculptures have been presented to outstanding women in more than 500 communities in the United States and around the world. For more information, visit [www.NashvilleATHENAAward.org](http://www.NashvilleATHENAAward.org). In 1995, operation of the Program transferred to Nashville CABLE Foundation’s 501(C)(3), pursuant to a license from ATHENA International.

For more information on the Nashville ATHENA Award Program, please visit [www.NashvilleATHENAAward.org](http://www.NashvilleATHENAAward.org). Like us on Facebook (Nashville ATHENA Award and Scholarship Program) and Follow us on Twitter, @ATHENA\_Award.

Nashville CABLE is Tennessee’s largest and most established network of professionals with over 500 members and a 30–year history of helping women reach their full potential. The organization’s mission of “Connecting Women and Opportunity” has shaped its networking programs and advocacy initiatives, and created a forward–thinking infrastructure for future growth. For information about CABLE, please visit [www.nashvillecable.org](http://www.nashvillecable.org).

###

Note to Editors: nominee portraits and background information on the Nashville ATHENA Award Program are available for download at: <http://www.nashvilleathenaawards.org/ATHENAnominees/>

Photo credit: Ed Rode/EdRode.com

*Nashville's premier event honoring women leaders and providing scholarships*  
[www.NashvilleATHENAAwards.org](http://www.NashvilleATHENAAwards.org)