2011 Tribute to Women Winners

Ten Area Women Honored at YWCA *Tribute to Women* Celebration
38 Years of Honoring Sioux Falls Area Women

On Thursday, March 24, the YWCA of Sioux Falls celebrated the 38th anniversary of honoring local women with its *Tribute to Women* event at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science.

The area's premier recognition event for women honored 44 nominees – and 10 winners – in the categories of Banking & Finance, Education, Executive Leadership, Government & Law, Healthcare & Science, Nonprofit & Human Services, Professions, Sales & Marketing, Sylvia Henkin Mentoring Award and Tomorrow's Leader.

"Tribute to Women is about honoring the good work of area women and recognizing the impact women have in our community," said Laurie Knutson, CEO of the YWCA of Sioux Falls. "It's only appropriate then, that we use proceeds from this event to further the leadership opportunities available to women in the Sioux Empire and to encourage young women to achieve all that they desire. Over the next year, we are focusing on developing a Women's Leadership Forum that incorporates a mentoring opportunity between young, up-and-coming women, and women in leadership roles. Young women are telling us they want more opportunities and relationships with women from whom they can learn. We're excited about what this will lead to."

Nearly 600 nominees, nominators, YWCA members, volunteers, business people and family members enjoyed the reception, silent auction and awards program at the Thursday evening event. Proceeds will support YWCA's childcare programs, scholarships for children's camps and sports programs, and support for refugee and immigrant women in our community. The event was sponsored by Avera McKennan with support from a number of other Sioux Falls area businesses.

YWCA Avera Downtown
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Sioux Falls, SD 57104
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***Banking and Finance* – Lisa Brouwer, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage**

Lisa Brouwer is a tenacious business and team builder and has ranked in the top 10% of all Mortgage originators in her organization. Through her role as a Home Mortgage Consultant with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage she was is able to share what she has learned with others at events like the Chamber of Commerce Brown Bag Lunches. She is a member of the Wells Fargo Presidents Club for the past three years and became a member of the Wells Fargo Leaders Club in her first year of bring a Home Mortgage Consultant. She is an active member of BNI and is on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross.

***Education* – Elizabeth Augustine, Globe University**

Elizabeth Augustine is the Dean of Students at Globe University. She obtained her bachelor's degree while working her way up from a student to an administrative assistant to a key member of the University's leadership. Her mission is to improve and develop multiple programs that will enhance the experience and quality of students. She involves program chairs and campus leadership in plans to track and assist struggling students. She has been awarded the Employee of the Quarter and Staff Person of the Year from Globe University.

***Executive Leadership* – Kris Gaster, Avera Cancer Institute**

Kris Gaster started her career as a floor nurse and has worked her way up to her current position as Assistant Vice President, Outpatient Cancer Clinic for Avera Cancer Institute. In 1994, Kris was named program director for the regions' first and only bone marrow transplant program. She oversaw the wig program which has supplied more than 1,000 wigs to cancer patients in need. She is involved with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Action Network, serves on the board for the River of Hope Foundation and is active in her church.

***Government & Law* – Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz PC**

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, started her political career early as Governor of SD Girl's State. She later would become the youngest female member elected to the US House of Representatives and was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives from South Dakota. She has been a champion of many issues including women, agriculture and our states native population. She served and chaired several committees while serving as South Dakota's lone voice in the House. She recently joined the Board of Directors at the Innovation Campus at SDSU

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***Healthcare & Science* – Mary Oyos, Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center**

Mary Oyos began her nursing career as a staff nurse and was encouraged to apply for a position as Diabetes Educator. Twenty-eight years later she is the Diabetes Program Manager and Diabetes Clinical Nurse Specialist at Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center. She led her program to become the first in South Dakota and the 42nd in the nation to be recognized by the American Diabetes Association. She is active in many Diabetes related societies and leads a Virtual Nurse Project to help children with diabetes in schools that do not have a school nurse. She is active in her church.

***Non-Profit & Human Services* – Donna Magnuson, Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota**

Donna Magnuson serves as the Director of Lutheran Social Services Refugee and Immigration Center. She has helped grow the organization from a staff of 20 to 52 full-time, 75 part-time staff and 90 volunteers. In her 11 years as Director, she has developed Interpreter Services and Immigration Counseling Services which serve about 1,200 people per year. She is the Vice President of State Coordinators for the Office of Refugee Resettlement and is Chair of the Regional Consultant Advisory Committee.

***Professions* – Lynnda Schoen, Woods, Fuller, Schultz & Smith P.C.**

Lynnda Schoen was originally hired as a legal secretary at the law firm of Wood, Fuller, Schultz & Smith, P.C. and has since become the Firm Administrator for over 80 staff members. Although she wears many hats in her position her determination and tenacity make her the "go to" person in the firm. Linda is in charge of the billing department, the law library, the word processing department, human resources, and the secretarial and support staff. She is also the "social director". Linda is active in her church and volunteers regularly at The Banquet, where she serves as a fundraiser.

***Sales and Marketing* – Jan Feterl, RAS**

Jan Feterl started her career with RAS in a role where she provided loss control and safety services and because of her expertise and sales skills was promoted to her current position as Associate Vice President of Marketing. Over the last two years she has increased her territory, achieved production goals and added $3 million in revenue. She is a member of the National Association of Women in Construction, Business and Professional Women of Sioux Falls, Central States Multiple Scoliosis Society, the MS Society and Live Strong Dakotas.

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***Sylvia Henkin Mentoring Award* – Jacquie Kluck, Sanford Health**

Currently serving as the Chief Clinical Officer for Sanford Health Jacquie Kluck has the ability to see what needs to be done and has the skill set that is matched to accomplish the tasks. After joining Sanford, she immediately became a mentor as Director and began to help others pursue leadership opportunities. Jacquie has championed the Leadership Development Institute, Service Excellence initiatives, the enhancement and continued development of clinical quality programs, system wide integration of clinical best practices across the Sioux Falls and Fargo regions.

***Tomorrow's Leader* – Jolene Loetscher, Selfspiration**

With an MBA in Executive Leadership, Jolene Loetscher has left no rock unturned. She has covered local and nation news at KELO TV, reported on politics for South Dakota Public Broadcasting, and has handled media relations for Sanford and others. She is a Co-Founder of DooGooders – a dog waste removal service where she donates 7% of the sales to area charities. Jolene, a survivor of sexual abuse, has made it her mission to start a foundation, Selfspiration, dedicated to healing survivors of sexual abuse. She spends her spare time working on a variety of local boards.

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