FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Finalists Announced for 2023 Influential Women Awards**

*165 finalists were selected from a group of over 320 nominees that were submitted by the public.*

Crown Point, IN – 7/6/23 – The 165 finalists for the 12th-annual [Influential Women Awards](https://nwiiwa.org/influential-womens-awards-banquet/) were announced today, featuring women from many leading regional companies.

During the awards banquet, two winners will be selected in 12 different industry categories – one Up and Coming Winner and one Influential Woman winner. Additionally, special awards will be given in other categories like Community Leader of the Year and Supporter of the Year.

"Becoming a finalist for the Influential Women Awards is an extraordinary achievement in itself, representing the dedication and remarkable contributions of countless exceptional women in our region. We are immensely proud to unveil this year's group of finalists and eagerly anticipate honoring their accomplishments at the upcoming awards banquet,” said Erica Dombey, NWIIWA board chair.

The 2023 finalists were chosen from a pool of over 320 nominees. They were nominated by their peers and other members of the public for the impact they’ve made on their companies, industries, and communities. Nominations were evaluated by Influential Women alumni from their respective fields.

Past winners come from all kinds of different professional backgrounds, including educators, corporate leaders, hospital officials, government officials, nonprofit heads, caregivers, and many others.

The [Influential Women Awards Banquet](https://nwiiwa.org/influential-womens-awards-banquet/) will take place on September 28th, 2023, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville.

A complete list of the 2023 finalists is included with this release (on page 2). For more information, please visit [NWIIWA.org](http://www.nwiiwa.org/).

###

**About NWIIWA:** The Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association ([NWIIWA](http://www.nwiiwa.org)) is the leading regional group for the professional development of women and their careers. Its mission focuses on providing opportunities for professional growth through leadership, support, and education in a variety of industries. Together with its members, NWIIWA supports the continuing advancement of women by bringing together the region’s most successful professionals in all areas of business, industry, and community service.

NWIIWA is a 501c3 non-profit and all donations are tax deductible.

**2023 Influential Women Finalists**

Arts – Influential

* Alicia Hodges Alicia Hodges Portraiture
* Edda Taylor Edda Taylor Photographie
* Gloria Tuohy Indiana Ballet Theatre
* Janet Bloch Lubeznik Center for the Arts
* Jessica Corral Valparaiso Creative Council
* Meg Piercy MegMade

Arts – Up and Coming

* Anna Sutton Blushing Rose Photography
* Brianna Hairlson Bri’s Dance Place
* Brittany Robinson Famous Athletics
* Hannah Hammond-Hagman Chesterton Art Center
* Renee Rosignol Hoosier Highlander

Business – Influential

* Dana Gibson Associated Pediatricians, LLC
* Donna Hammersmith Centier Bank
* Jessica Kish New Chapter Real Estate
* Kelly Maki Maki Insurance Group
* Kristy Bish Burns Funeral Home and Crematory
* Lynn Duttlinger CLH CPAs and Consultants
* Nancy Frigo-Svetanoff Coldwell Banker Realty
* Sonya Smith Wealth in Motion Consulting
* Susan Ibitz Human Behavior Lab
* Vicki Znavor UBU, LLC
* Wendy Gasior Luke Family of Brands

Business – Up and Coming

* Becky Wright Wright House Realty/eXp Realty
* Belinda Sebenste Luke Oil
* Danialle Parks NIPSCO
* Katrina Sites K&S Productions
* Lanise Brown Luke Family of Brands
* Lisa Harrington Mermaid Straw
* Megan Thompson Twisted Sugar
* Monica Johnson CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
* Tiffany Kouimanis BMO Capital Markets
* Vicki Carlson Trumpet Vine
* Yolanda Monahan YoBandz

Construction/Manufacturing – Influential

* Gina Merkel Larson-Danielson Construction Co.
* Jessica Arens Korellis
* Jessica Zvyak Brandenburg Industrial Service Company
* Karyn Gallas Schererville Glass & Mirror
* Katrina Bruner Superior Construction
* Lisa Taylor Tonn and Blank Construction
* Lynda Niaves Hasse Construction Co.
* Patty Stovall Hasse Construction Co.
* Robin Witte Facet Architecture

Construction/Manufacturing – Up and Coming

* Dana Kazee Solid Platforms, Inc.
* Kali Werkowski Korellis
* Linda Monge Guerrero NiSource
* Sarah Lewis Superior Construction

Economic Development/Government – Influential

* Becky Kreiger Porter County Parks and Recreation
* Jane Jordan Town of Burns Harbor
* Sherri Ziller Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority
* Sonia Davis Indiana Department of Child Services

Economic Development/Government – Up and Coming

* Holly Taylor City of Valparaiso
* Skyler Hofer Winfield Police Department
* Wendy Mis Town of Munster

Education – Influential

* Alison Bell WGU Indiana
* Amanda King Crown Point Community School Corp.
* Christine Miller Trinity Lutheran School
* HelenMarie Harmon Indiana University Northwest
* Iris Sanchez Purdue University Northwest
* Libbie Pelter Purdue University Northwest
* Melissa Czekaj Saint Paul Catholic School
* Melissa Tatalovich Washington Irving Elementary School
* Patricia Kelly People's Day Care
* Rhonda Zaluckyj Patti's All American
* Shanina Thomas City Colleges of Chicago
* Shaunna Finley Communities in Schools

Education – Up and Coming

* Catharine Olsen Purdue University Northwest
* Dominique Williams Sparky Brains Tutoring
* Lydia McNeiley School City of Hammond
* Nelsy Marcano Lubeznik Center for the Arts
* Sarah Watkins 21st Century Charter School

Finance – Influential

* Betty Sidwell Superior Construction
* Faye Sepke Horizon Bank
* Gina Fezler Wintrust
* Gretchen Kalk-Castro CLH CPAs and Consultants
* Karin DeVries Horizon Bank
* Katie Craig bp
* Mary Kay Gaboyan Horizon Bank
* Robin Clark Horizon Bank
* Sonia M Georgeff Goldstar Mortgage Financial Group
* Stephany Leonard Teachers Credit Union
* Tracy Bergstrom Teachers Credit Union

Finance – Up and Coming

* Angelica Arambula University of Chicago
* Candice Miller First National Bank of Monterey
* Carrie Upchurch TCU
* Erika Gonzalez Horizon Bank
* Jamie Wolfe Tech Credit Union
* Julie Latta St. Catherine Hospital
* Shvonne Barber Horizon Bank
* Teresa Wallace Wallace Consulting

Healthcare – Influential

* Alexandria Berrettoni Physician Billers
* Christina Matoski New Beginnings Health Center
* Crystal Shannon Indiana University Northwest
* Cynthia Thompson Franciscan Health Olympia Fields
* Kristen Jeppeson Community Hospital
* Kristy Hite Progressions Counseling
* Lamia Katbi Community Healthcare
* Paula Simpson Bridges of Possibilities
* Tranece Artis Laini Fluellen Charities

Healthcare – Up and Coming

* Amber Turpin Lowell Family Practice
* Emily Svetanoff Restoration Dental Studio
* Gina Bachmeier RENEW U Massage and Wellness, LLC
* Jenna Conklin Paladin
* Jervai Dumas Casa/IUN
* LaShawnda High St. Catherine Hospital
* Vanessa Turner Inspire Care & Support Services
* Victoria Chubbs Hospice of the Calumet Area
* Yana Pinkhasov Rhythm N' Beets

Law – Influential

* Carly Brandenburg Eichhorn & Eichhorn, LLP
* Tara Tauber Tauber Law Offices

Law – Up and Coming

* Courtney C. Smith Smith Legal Group
* Rebecca Goddard Newton County Prosecutor's Office/Ryan Law Office

Marketing – Influential

* Andrea Pearman Diversified Marketing Strategies
* Lauri Keagle Franciscan Alliance
* Maria Avila Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana
* Tricia Sena SENSIT Technologies

Marketing – Up and Coming

* Alyssa Gawlinski REjournals
* Andrea Puente Gray Digital Media
* Cassie Carlson Tonn and Blank Construction
* Jane Powers Schiesser Humane Indiana
* Mary Freda-Flores City of Crown Point
* Melissa Bohacek Paladin
* Susan Thompson Illiana Indoor Billboards

Nonprofit – Influential

* Amanda Morrison Geminus Corporation
* Candice Adams Anthony Adams House
* Christine Ward Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and NWI
* Cindy Cohen C2 Your Health Women's Initiative
* Cori Kale New Chapter Real Estate
* Joyce Forman Crossroads YMCA
* LaVonne Jarrett Franciscan Health VASIA
* Linda Brooks BCH, Inc.
* Lisa Previs Tradewinds Services
* Mariann Frigo Jacob's Ladder Pediatrics
* Vickie Rainwater Mental Health America of NWI
* Wende Burbridge Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana

Nonprofit – Up and Coming

* Angela Crossin Women in Bloom
* Brenna Geist Brookside Christian Academy
* Buffy Adams St. Jude House Domestic Violence Shelter
* Jacqueline Weber Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana
* Jessica Petalas Humane Indiana
* Julie McElmurry Shared Ethics Advisory Commission
* Linda Lewandowski Kid's Closet Ministry
* Madisyn Wimple Madisyn’s Spread the Love Project
* Meredith Dohanyos Northwest Indiana Community Action
* Nicole Harmon Humane Indiana
* Porshca Goffin Forever Resilient
* Sindel Keister Purdue University/Southlake YMCA

Service & Tourism – Influential

* Ashley Krueger Luke Family of Brands
* Christina Herrera Ameristar Casino
* Deborah Bachmann Purdue University Northwest
* Erica Berger-Frame Center of Attention Salon
* Jessica Garcia Luke Family of Brands
* Katie Hawks Sangha Center for Wellness
* Shanika Griffin Luke Family of Brands

Service & Tourism – Up and Coming

* Dora Rosa Liqgo
* Ericka Haro Guerrero Luke Family of Brands
* JB Baisa Luke Family of Brands
* Michelle Hollandsworth Performance Foodservice
* Natalie Paton Luke Family of Brands

STEM – Influential

* Dorothy Falk Falk-PLI
* Erin Bemis bp
* Jill Landers bp
* Kathy Trebiani ArcelorMittal Global R&D
* Kim Dray bp

STEM – Up and Coming

* Cassidee Jacobsen Rexnord Aerospace
* Gianna Gomez-Mayo NiSource