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***Rochester Business Journal Announces  
Inaugural Women of Excellence Recipients***

**Rochester, N.Y., (Insert Date Sent)** — *Rochester Business Journal* selected Stephanie F. Benson, Partner/COO of Edgemere Development Inc., as an inaugural Women of Excellence recipient.

Established this year, the Women of Excellence awards recognize 34 high-achieving women for their career accomplishments, community involvement, leadership and sustained commitment to mentoring. Winners were selected by the editor and publisher of the *Rochester Business Journal*.

The Women of Excellence awards program was created by the *Rochester Business Journal* to recognize women at the top of their careers who are committed to professional excellence and community service and who demonstrate the positive impact of mentoring.

In addition, six women will be inducted into the Circle of Excellence. The Circle of Excellence recognizes women of longstanding, notable success in the community who are leading the way for other women.

"This year's Women of Excellence honorees inspire those around them through their actions, words and deeds. They have achieved personal success, but they also contribute to bettering the communities in which they work and live," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of the *Rochester Business Journal*. "Their commitment to mentoring the next generation while also balancing the many facets of their busy lives makes them role models for all. The *Rochester Business Journal* is honored to recognize their accomplishments."

The Women of Excellence awards will be presented Wednesday, April 11, at an awards celebration from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 East Main Street in Rochester. Winners will be profiled in a magazine that will be inserted into the April 13 issue of the *Rochester Business Journal* and will be available online at [www.rbj.net](http://www.rbj.net). The event hashtag is #RBJWomenofExcellence.

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For more information about sponsorships and tickets for the *Rochester Business Journal's* Women of Excellence awards, visit [www.rbj.net](http://www.rbj.net) or call 585-363-7270.

### **About the *Rochester Business Journal***

For 31 years, the *Rochester Business Journal* has served as the leading source of business news and information in Rochester, N.Y. Providing unmatched business coverage of a market exceeding one million people and home to Fortune 500 companies such as Eastman Kodak Co. and Xerox Corp., the *Rochester Business Journal* is the source that more than 29,000 area executives come to first for coverage of the people and companies that drive the growth of business in Western New York. The *Rochester Business Journal's* coverage is not limited to the area's top public companies; the award-winning editorial staff has been cited for excellence in reporting on health care, technology, small business and other topics. *Rochester Business Journal* is part of BridgeTower Media, one of the country's leading business-to-business media companies with 44 print and digital publications in more than 20 U.S. markets.

## **2018 Women of Excellence Recipients**

Stephanie F. Benson, partner and chief operating officer, Edgemere Development Inc.  
Mary Walsh Boatfield, president and CEO, Ability Partners Inc.  
Laurie Broccolo, CEO and owner, Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care  
Flor M. Colon, associate general counsel and chief ethics officer, Xerox Corporation  
Marisa Geitner, president and CEO, Heritage Christian Services  
Shelby George, JD, CEBS, senior vice president, advisor services, Manning & Napier  
Melissa Geska, president, US Ceiling Corporation  
LaShay D. Harris, account executive, American Medical Response  
Pamela P. Heald, president and CEO, Reliant Community Credit Union  
Staci Henning, executive vice president, chief marketing officer, Greater Rochester Enterprise  
Cynthia Langston, corporate vice president, chief analytics & data officer, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield  
Kate McClung, member, Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC  
Kathy Metcalfe, chief culture officer, Clark Patterson Lee  
Dianne Cooney Miner, founding dean and professor, associate vice president for community engagement, Wegmans School of Nursing, St. John Fisher College  
Dallas Nelson, MD, associate professor of medicine, University of Rochester  
Kathy Palokoff, chief igniter, goFirestarter  
Susan Parkes-McNally, executive vice president, corporate secretary and treasurer, director of human resources, O'Connell Electric Company Inc.  
Jacqueline Phipps Polito, shareholder, Littler  
Deana L. Porterfield, president, Roberts Wesleyan College

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Marisol O. Ramos-Lopez, commissioner, City of Rochester, DRYS  
Seema Ali Rizzo, partner, chair, domestic relations & family law division, Gallo & Iacovangelo LLP  
Kimberly Roberson, president and founder, executive director, Caring and Sharing Child Care Center Inc.  
Laurie G. Sagona, president, Sundance Marketing LLC  
Jessica M. Savage, managing partner, account services, Dixon Schwabl Advertising  
Monica Savino, chief financial officer, The Bonadio Group  
Karen Serinis, executive vice president, Canandaigua National Bank & Trust  
Renu Singh, senior associate dean of operations, University of Rochester School of Nursing  
Deborah C. Stamps, MS, RN, NP, NE-BC, system vice president, quality, safety and innovation, Rochester Regional Health  
Cheryl Nelan Stein, president, CMIT Solutions of Monroe  
Salley Thornton, director, national field marketing, Toshiba America Business Solutions  
Patricia Uttaro, library director, Rochester Public Library & Monroe County Library System  
Lori VanAuken, executive director, Catholic Charities Community Services  
Karen Zandi, president and CEO, Mary Cariola Children's Center  
Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, president, Rochester Downtown Development Corporation

### **Circle of Excellence Honorees**

Lauren Dixon, CEO, Dixon Schwabl Advertising  
Hilda Rosario Escher, president and CEO, Ibero American Action League  
Anne Kress, president, Monroe Community College  
Fran Weisberg, former CEO, United Way of Greater Rochester  
Christine Whitman, president and CEO, Complemar Partners  
Louise Woerner, chairman and CEO, HCR Home Care

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