



*Women's
Executive Council*

47th Annual

*Women's
Achievement
Awards*

October 21, 2019

*Empowering and Embracing
Women to Serve Central Florida*

Program Host

Heatherann Antonacci

President

Women's Executive Council

Master of Ceremonies

Vanessa Echols

News Anchor

WFTV Channel 9

WRDQ TV 27

2018 Woman Achievement Awards

Woman of the Year

Jorge Estevez

News Anchor

WFTV Channel 9

WRDQ TV 27

Awards Program

Welcome

Invocation

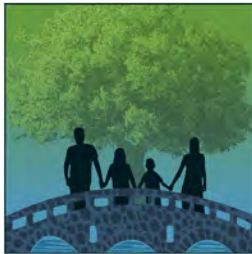
Overview

Scholarship Awards

Honorees Awards

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Dr. Anna Diaz	Dorothy Russell
Dorothy Harris	Eva Shoemaker
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Shelly Ferrone / UBS	Women in Corrections
Ashley Filmon	Yarmmys Vargas

*** Donated two (2) 2019 scholarships*

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"When you educate a woman, you educate a generation."

- Brigham Young

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"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

- Anne Frank

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When women succeed, everybody wins



We are proud to celebrate all the achievements of women past, present, and future.

**Women's Executive Council, it's an honor
to be a part of your event.**

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Together we'll go far



2019 Scholarship Recipients

Genevieve Cooper **Wells Fargo Scholar**

Rollins College | Business Administration

Genevieve Cooper received her Bachelor of Arts in English literature at Rollins College and minored in Women's Studies. She began volunteering at the local domestic violence agency, Harbor House of Central Florida. She has been working with the agency for the past five years advocating for survivors as an employee. Genevieve is returning to Rollins to pursue her Master's Degree in Business Administration, where she will develop the skills to effectively run a nonprofit and efficiently collaborate with community partners to further ensure social and gender equality in the community.



Kerena M. Sirolin **Wells Fargo Scholar**

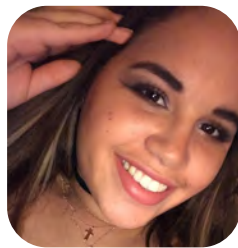
University of Central Florida | Business Administration

Kerena Sirolin is a Haitian-American born and raised in Orlando. Kerena is a Bridges to Success Scholar, as well as a Valencia Honors Scholar. She has volunteered and worked to help hone her ambitions and formulate her decisions. She has elected to pursue a career in business, which will allow her to mentor youth to make better life decisions. Being an only child raised by a single mother has had its ups and downs, but Kerena has come to realize that life experiences are often the best teacher. Without those trials, she would not have become the well-rounded, intelligent young black woman she is today.

Melva Camacho **Wells Fargo Scholar**

Valencia College | International Business

Melva Comacho was born in Venezuela. Her parents are currently living in Venezuela and are struggling. She worked during her teenage years to help the family. She is attending Valencia College, where she belongs to two honor societies: Seneff Honors College and Phi Theta Kappa. She has volunteered at Give Kids the World Village, Kissimmee Middle School and H.O.M.E. Melva's passions are travelling and finance and she plans to combine these by pursuing a career in international business to help other women fulfill their dreams.





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2019 Scholarship Recipients

Riley Hoffer
VACO Scholar

Rollins College | Business Management



In her senior year at Rollins, Riley Hoffer serves as the event chair for the Business Student Leadership Council, a peer mentor for her fellow transfer students. In addition, she is an active member of the Rollins Dance Company. At age 11, Riley was the youngest recipient of the United States Green Building Council's Youth Leader Award and has since accomplished much in theater, appearing in *West Side Story, Jr.* in New York City.

"I always believed that one woman's success can only help another woman's success."

- Gloria Vanderbilt



Luciana Nardi
VACO Scholar

Valencia College | Information Technology

Wife, mother and student, Luciana Nardi was born in 1972, the same year Women's Executive Council was founded. Following the motto, "the shape of your future depends upon your choices today," Luciana left her home in Brazil, and is pursuing her Associate of Arts degree in Information Technology. She believes the world can be improved by having empathy, compassion and by integrating others, thus she dedicates her free time to help Brazilian immigrants around Orlando to overcome the language barrier. Her passion for origami, mathematics, and arts helped her to explain fractions and geometry in volunteer classes for low-income children in Brazil. Luciana's plan for the future includes recruiting sponsors and friends to help her in a project for preteens and adolescents in Brazil using Raspberry Pi, a credit card-sized computer as an exciting way to spur interest in learning computer programming and logical thinking.



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Bridges International's mission is to provide criminal justice involved individuals and their families with comprehensive therapeutic services according to their recovery and reentry needs.

- ◆ Behavioral Health Services
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- ◆ Family Services
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- ◆ Chaplaincy Services
- ◆ Life Skills Education
- ◆ Criminal Thinking



Bridges International is proud to support the Women's Executive Council with their mission to unite professional women by creating opportunities to recognize and inspire women leaders and students to serve our Central Florida community.

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2019 Scholarship Recipients



Alexandria Ashley
Bridges International Scholar

Valencia College | General Studies

Alexandria Ashley hails from Texas and has been living in Orlando for about 10 years. She works at Universal Studios as a cashier and food cart attendant.

She is currently studying at Valencia College and is a member of the Seneff Honors College. Alexandria plans to transfer to the University of Central Florida to earn her bachelor's degree in writing and rhetoric. She plans to join the UCF Lockheed Martin College Work Experience Program (CWEP) and become a technical writer. Her hobbies include reading, writing, drawing, painting, playing strategic games, acting and volunteering. Alexandria likes to volunteer at her local church and has been doing so for more than 4 years.

“I need to listen well so that I hear what is not said.”

- Thuli Madons

Jennifer Layer
Bridges International Scholar

University of Central Florida | Architecture

Jennifer Layer is an architecture student at the University of Central Florida. She is passionate about animals and the environment and is a strong believer in women pursuing that which sets their soul on fire - even if it takes a few tries to figure out what that is. Her teachers describe her as very caring, hardworking, and creative. After graduating, Jennifer plans to continue her education and receive a master's degree in architecture.



2019 Scholarship Recipients



Nadia Watson
Fifth Third Scholar

Valencia College | General / Business

Nadia Watson currently attends Seneff Honors College with a 4.0 GPA and looks forward to her graduation in Spring 2021. She plans to transfer to Judy Genshaft Honors College through the University of South Florida to earn a bachelor's degree in sustainability. Her career goal is to become a Chief Sustainability Officer (CSF) ensuring sustainability issues are a priority and collaboration among teams to reduce waste. Nadia's dream is to make a difference in our environment. Her passions include traveling, learning, being outdoors, and trying new things.



*“One child, one teacher, one pen and one book
can change the world.”
- Malala Yousafzai*

Anna Marie Johns
Orlando Health Scholar

Valencia College | Pre-Medicine

Anna Marie Johns is a pre-med student at Valencia, where she has been on the President's List and on the Dean's List. She maintains a part-time job working at Lighthouse Cove Mini Golf to help defray expenses. Her passion for medicine developed during middle school when she discovered her life's purpose was to help others. In high school, she participated in tennis, fencing and choir and in various medical classes and conferences that furthered a desire to obtain a medical degree. She participated in Women Helping Women and other service projects, including a mission trip to Haiti. Her long-term goal is to become a forensic pathologist.



2019 Scholarship Recipients

Adriana M. Correa
Pando Partners Scholar

University of Central Florida | Electrical Engineering

Adriana Correa overcame much hardship at a young age. Dealing with financial instability and a lack of security made life difficult. She was able to define herself in high school with a strong work ethic. Adriana worked tirelessly at her academics and extracurriculars and achieved recognition within Air Force Junior ROTC as a leader and as a role model. She maintained academic honor roll year after year. Adriana is eternally grateful for every opportunity that she has been given by life and by the Women's Executive Council.



Eriny Morcos
Sylvia Daniels Scholar

Valencia College | Dental Hygiene

Eriny Morcos dreamed of being a dental hygienist since high school but could not achieve that in her home country of Egypt because of poor educational opportunities. In



2013 she moved to the United States with her two children to achieve her dream. It has been difficult to learn a new language and a new culture, plus she adores her children and wants like every mom to give them the attention they deserve. But she finally, applied and was accepted to the Dental Hygienist Program. Her goal is to finish her AA and then get her Bachelors. The road has been hard for her and her family, but she feels with perseverance and dedication she can accomplish anything.

Diamond Belle
Kelly Family Cuidiú Foundation Scholar
Valencia College | Nursing

Diamond Belle is an eager, determined nursing student at Valencia. Growing up with a mother who always pushed her, she remained focused on studying, on volunteering and on sports resulting in her graduating with honors. Due to financial worries, she matured at a very young age, and helped to lift the burdens off her mother so she wouldn't have to carry everything on her shoulders. Her mother is her main inspiration because she espouses the importance of life and the principles needed to survive as an African-American woman. Diamond is combining her passion for learning and helping others in her personal quest to be the best person she can be.



2019 Scholarship Recipients



Daija Smith
Tony Martin Scholar

Valencia College | Health Sciences

Daija Smith is very determined when it comes to her education and has always strived for excellence. She graduated with honors from Ridge Community High School, being selected to the "National Society of High Scholars". The Medical Academy, and Health Occupational Students of America. Daija volunteered, tutored, and mentored students at a summer reading program for many years called "P&P Helping Hand Foundation". She has earned certifications in CPR/AED, and Medical Administrative Assistant. Daija also enjoys modeling for Valencia College billboards and brochures, volunteers at a thrift store and food pantry named "HOPE Helps" on campus.

"When we witness great acts of kindness or courage, it inspires us and it elevates us to also want to be kinder and braver ourselves."

- Lea Waters

Danile Jerome
Jan Leach Scholar

University of Central Florida | Social Work



Majoring in Social Work at the University of Central Florida, Danile Jerome plans on pursuing a dual degree with a Master's in Social Work as well as a law degree. She feels these degrees will position her to effectively serve the social and legal needs of families, communities, and organizations. Danile grew up in a single parent household. By the age of 21, she survived a car shooting, depression, toxic relationships, and the loss of loved ones. Despite all of this, Danile has not lost hope in humanity and knows in her heart that she can change lives and leave a mark on this Earth.

2019 Scholarship Recipients



Isabella Pardo
WEC Scholar

Valencia College | Physics / Meteorology

Isabella Pardo is an Honors Freshman at Valencia College. After graduating from High School in Columbia at age sixteen, she moved back to the U.S. on her own and had to re-learn English. She lived with her uncle in Georgia, worked and graduated from high school again. Isabella currently works thirty plus hours a week as tutor at Valencia and Kumon. In spite of this heavy workload, she was accepted into the Seneff Honors College and VECTOR and is also a member of the Valencia Intercultural Student Association. Isabella's long-term goals are to become a meteorologist, work in the field and eventually get her master's degree in physics and planetary sciences.

"We educate women because it is smart. We educate women because it changes the world."

-Drew Gilpin Faust

Tess Puzio
WEC Scholar

Valencia College | History

Tess Puzio is a second-year student at Valencia College. She plans on earning her bachelor's degree in History and a master's degree in Museum Studies to achieve her goal of becoming a museum curator.



Tess lost her mother to lung cancer when she was thirteen and since then, life has been very difficult. Receiving not only the financial support but the recognition has meant the world to her. This scholarship means that she can afford an entire semester at Valencia and it will reduce the stress of supporting herself. Tess wants each of you here tonight to know how thankful she is for your support of women scholars and especially her own collegiate journey.

2019 Scholarship Recipients



Carmen R. Glasser
Laura and James Lynn Scholar

Florida Institute of Technology | Systems Engineering

Carmen Glasser is a mother of two boys, a wife, a student, a business owner, and a nonprofit founder.

She is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served for six years as a Naval Officer.

She has been an Infant Swimming Resource (ISR) Master Instructor since 2007. The magnitude of childhood drowning pushed Carmen to form the nonprofit, Swim Safe Forever (SSF). Academically, her engineering mind craved to be exercised, and led her to earn a master's degree in Ocean Engineering from Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in December 2018. Discovering a love for Systems Engineering (SE) catapulted Carmen's current desire to earn a second master's degree, which she is now pursuing.

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."
- Arthur Ashe

Amanda Kern
Ashley Filmon Scholar

University of Central Florida | Nonprofit Management

Nine years ago, Amanda Kern learned the baby she was expecting would be born with spina bifida. In 2011, her son Chance was born. In his first year of life he endured 11 surgeries. He's the most determined, resilient, and amazing child. When Chance was diagnosed, there was little local support for spina bifida, and resources only told what would be wrong. None provided any hope. With so much to be done, Amanda began volunteering with the Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida, using her camera to help create awareness and connect the community. In 2014, she launched Redefining Spina Bifida, a 501(c)3 that now has the second largest following on social media of all spina bifida organizations in the world. The organization creates resources to help newly diagnosed families see that their kids' lives with spina bifida hold potential. The journey has been hard, but she is sure God's led them on this path for a good reason. Amanda's first hand experiences coupled with the knowledge she continues to gain from UCF's Nonprofit Management program will help her do far greater good.



2019 Scholarship Recipients

Hilary Jaime
Ina Courtney Revis Scholarship

Valencia College | Elementary Education



Hilary Jaime attends Valencia College, where she has been accepted into the honors program and earned her place on the Dean's List. She and will graduate in Spring 2020 and plans to major in Elementary Education when she transfers to the University of Central Florida. Hilary works at a before and after school program, helping children with homework, teaching a curriculum of STEAM activities and drama. Hilary's family is a huge priority in her life. Her mother recently got pregnant after 12 years. Hilary is organizing her gender reveal and couldn't be happier. Family comes first for Hilary and she would do anything to make them happy and proud!

"If you want to grow, you need to get over any fear you may have about making mistakes."

- John C. Maxwell

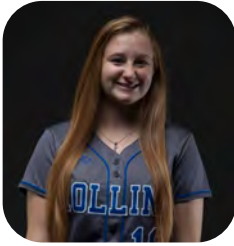


Marie Guerdie Darius
Shirley Horsey Scholarship

Herzing University | Nursing

Marie Guerdie Darius is an LPN with more than eight years of experience in direct patient care, who works as a weekend supervisor, and is currently a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) student at Herzing University. She was born in Haiti in 1972, the oldest of 5 children, obtained a bachelor's degree in Economic Sciences from the State University of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. She is the mother of two children, Gaetan (18) and Christelle (15). She attended Essex County Vocational Technical Schools, where she obtained her license in Practical Nursing in December 2011 and started working in the nursing field in February 2012. Marie volunteers with adults, teaching them how to read and write, getting children vaccinated against infectious diseases, and also helps to empower youth in impoverished communities.

2019 Scholarship Recipients



Erin Crawford

Dorothy Wilson Freeman Scholarship

Rollins College | Sociology

Erin Crawford is a senior at Rollins College. She is a member of the softball team and serves on the executive board of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Her major is in Sociology with a double minor in Political Science and African/American Studies. Erin applied for this scholarship because, frankly, she needed the help as she is enrolled in a full course load while maintaining an internship, performing her duties on the softball team, and donating time weekly to a local Title I school. Because of the generosity of the Women's Executive Council, she can fulfill all of these duties in her role as a responsible leader and global citizen. Erin is profoundly grateful for WEC's support!

*“We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.”
- Maya Angelou*

Sunnaz Toreihi

Women in Corrections Scholar

Rollins College | Philosophy / Political Science

Sunny Toreihi is a graduating senior at Rollins College and is the Co-President of Voices for Women, her campus's feminist organization. She has served as a Resident Assistant for three years. Sunny is a senior intern for the Bonner Leaders Program, a prestigious national service-based program, where she has completed over 1,500 hours of community service during her college career. Her combined experience as a member of the Varsity Debate Team and as a social justice advocate has propelled her career towards one focused on being a gender rights lawyer, particularly one that legally defends survivors of sexual misconduct. Sunny's aspirations are to apply for a joint Master's in Public Policy and Juris Doctor degree and ultimately embark on a career as an advocate and ally for all people.



2019 Scholarship Recipients



Nicole Schoenfeld
Ashley Laubach Scholar

Rollins College | Mathematics

Nicole is currently a fourth-year student at Rollins College pursuing a degree in Mathematics. She came to Rollins on a soccer scholarship, pursuing a degree in Physics.

She began working at a Boys & Girls Club during her freshman year and was later accepted into the Bonner Leaders Program, a service-oriented program, in her Sophomore year. Nicole has interned for the United Nations, studied abroad, and now works to bring different service opportunities to her peers and school. This scholarship will greatly aid in her continuing to be a vehicle for social change, bringing exposure and opportunity to her classmates.

*"The question isn't who's going to let me.
It's who is going to stop me."
- Ayn Rand*



Anna Huynh
Margaret D. Jennings Scholarship

University of Central Florida | Nursing

Anna Huynh is a student at the University of Central Florida's College of Nursing. She serves as the Family and Hospital Captain for UCF's Dance Marathon

benefiting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, is on the executive board of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and is a girl's small group leader for G3 Ministries. Her passion is to help women start or grow in their faith journey, cultivate their purpose, and unleash their God-given potential. This inspired Anna to start a faith blog with her best friend entitled ***She is Made New*** and hopes that it will inspire hundreds of women across the nation.

2019 Scholarship Recipients



Leonia Hunt
Shelly Ferrone | UBS Scholar

Florida Institute of Technology -
Master's in Aviation Human Factors

Leonia Hunt is a graduate student in Aviation at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). She earned her bachelor's degree in Aviation Management and Flight from FIT in 2018, graduating first in her class and summa cum laude. She is a commercially certificated single- and multi-engine instrument-rated pilot and recently obtained her certified flight instructor certificate. Leonia's goal is to become an international airline captain.

"I alone cannot change the world but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

- Mother Teresa



Leslie Recendiz
Yarmmys Vargas Scholar

University of Central Florida | Computer Engineering

Leslie Recendiz is currently a Sophomore Honors student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering at UCF. She has completed an articulated Associate in Arts Degree in Computer Engineering at Valencia, where she served as vice-president of the Technology Club; played an active part of the STEM scholars' program; and completed an internship with Station1, MIT's nonprofit organization "working to building a foundation for the university of the future". She currently works part time at Siemens as a mobile app developer, where she proudly represents the minority as a female. Leslie's desire is to grow within the company and inspire women to challenge themselves and pursue opportunities in subjects not traditionally considered female.

2019 Scholarship Recipients



Eliana Benedick
Dr. Anna Diaz Scholar

Seminole State College | Early Childhood Education

Eliana Benedick is a sophomore at Seminole State College majoring in Early Childhood Education. She aspires to teach at a preschool and eventually become a preschool director. She plans to open her own preschool while working on her master's degree. Eliana's formal experience in Early Childhood Education began during her junior year in high school through a special program offered at Oviedo High. She always strives to enhance her skills through involvement in environments that help cultivate her passion. This Scholarship will help pay for Eliana's required testing to become a teacher along with extra study material to guarantee success.

*“Never give up, for that is just the place
and time that the tide will turn.”*

- Harriet Beecher Stowe

Tamara Sanon
WEC Scholar

University of Central Florida | Broadcast Journalism

Tamara Sanon is a current undergraduate student at UCF, majoring in broadcast journalism. She has encountered lifelong trials ranging from financial instability, to a slow cognitive processing speed, all the while battling gender inequality. Tamara attributes her success to the difficulties she's overcome; for each hardship gave a reason to want more in life not just for herself but for others too. She believes that underprivileged people deserve a platform and spokesperson, who can genuinely discuss the challenges they face and what inspires them. College is simply a new chapter in Tamara's life narrative that demonstrates she is capable of anything and that disability and discrimination cannot keep her from realizing her greatness.



2019 Scholarship Recipients



Priscilla Meraz
WEC Scholar

Valencia College | General Studies / Biomedical

Priscilla Meraz was born and raised in the Orlando area and is a mother of four children. After losing her father to a brain injury, she knew that she wanted to pursue her dreams and make a difference for others who suffered as he did. It has taken much dedication, hard work, and sacrifice but she will stop at nothing to become a neurosurgeon. This scholarship will help Priscilla overcome some of the financial obstacles she currently is facing as a parent and college student. Her mission along the way is to inspire others by letting them know that no matter what obstacles you face, ANYTHING is possible.

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.”
- Mark Twain

Sydney (Susan) Hoskins
WEC Scholar

University of Central Florida | Biomedical



Sydney Hoskins is a biomedical science major at UCF. She was a student athlete in high school and volunteered over 1000 hours; working with youth with mental and physical challenges and tutoring Anatomy and Physiology while attending Valencia. She was also approved as a member of the Excel/Compass program at UCF, which works with STEM majors by providing mentors, study hours, and research opportunities. Last year, Sydney was so moved by meeting the amazing women of the Women's Executive Council and their stories inspired her to change her major to Biomedical Sciences and pursue a medical degree.

2019 Scholarship Recipients



Felicia Crane Arteaga
Gina Talley Scholarship

Herzing University | Radiography

Felicia Arteaga was born in Winter Garden, Florida in 1977. She is the first in her family to complete a college degree. Felicia dealt with many struggles in her life growing up before finding her path and the love and support she needed to make her dreams a reality. She earned her GED in 2014, her associate of arts degree at Seminole State College in 2016, a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature at UCF in 2019, and is now working towards her associate of science degree in Radiography at Herzing University. After graduation, Felicia plans to continue pursuing a bachelor's degree in Radiography.

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WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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Congratulations

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FELICIA CRANE ARTEAGA
(Radtech)

MARIE GUERDIE DARIUS
(Nursing)

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In 2013, the Board of Directors created the 1972 Society to reflect the heart of the Women's Executive Council - *Embracing and Empowering Women to Serve Central Florida.*

Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1972.00

1972 Society Donor Opportunities:

Donors may give and present a **\$1972 scholarship** in your name or the name of a loved one to a scholarship recipient in a field/major of your choice. This donation qualifies you as a 1972 Society Diamond Member.

Join the **1972 Society Giving Circle** and donate a **one time payment of \$197.20** or **ten-monthly payments of \$19.72**. Gather nine friends or family members and you will be able to award one scholarship in your group's name. Any donation of \$197.20 or more qualifies you as a member of the 1972 Society.

Thank you for making a difference and investing in the lives of women in Central Florida - one scholarship at a time.

Visit wecorlando.com/1972-Society for more information.

Women's Achievement Awards Nominees



Kyle Alexandre
Walt Disney World



Latasha Barnes
Orlando Health



Shanta Barton-Stubbs
New Image
Youth Center



Denise Kim Beamer
Ninth Judicial
Circuit Court



Laura Bedard, PhD
Seminole County Jail



Candita Bryan
RENEW Women's
Global Outreach



Leslie Christin
Cara Cosmetics



Cari Coats
ACCENDO Leadership
Advisory Group



Diane Crews
Orlando Sanford
International Airport



Leticia Diaz
Barry University Dwayne
Andreas School of Law



Faith-Christina Duncan
Imperfect Creations



Nora Lee Garcia, EdD
University of Central
Florida



Stephanie Garris
Grace Medical Home



Lena Graham Morris
Horus Construction Services



Tara Hagood
Wharton Smith, Inc.



Aluska Harms-Richardson
Aurora InfoTech, LLC

Women's Achievement Awards Nominees



Peggy Hoyt
The Law Offices of
Hoyt & Bryan



Colleen Hufford
Friends of the Park



Sharon Karklins
Williams Company



Anissa King
Ms. Corporate
America Organization



Catherine Losey
Losey PLLC



Heather Maloney
American Heart
Association



Vickie Martin
Christian HELP



Pamela McCauley, PhD
Transforming Your STEM
Career



Rosie Moore
The Gift of Life



Romie Mustaq, MD
Evolution Hospitality



Josie Nejame
Runway to Hope



Lauren Nelson
Nemours Children's
Hospital



Janet Perez Eckles
JC Empowerment
Ministries



**Giorgina Pinedo
Rolon, PhD**
City of Orlando



Kaylynn Price
Regions Bank



Karen Revels
Cannonball Kids'
Cancer Foundation

Women's Achievement Awards Nominees



Frances Rios
Frances Rios
International



Camy Schwam-Wilcox
Schwam Wilcox &
Associates



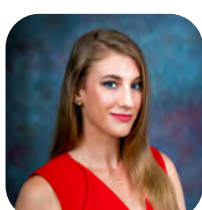
Elizabeth Scovil
Elizabeth Scovil
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Judge of 9th
Circuit Court



Jean Thompson
Westgate Resort



Nicole Warren
Chance 2
Dance



Renee Weeden
Orlando
Skin Solutions



Karen Willis
Early Learning Coalition
of Orange County



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*A heartfelt congratulations to all of the women nominated
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2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Emerging Leader Honoree



Kyle Alexandre

**Government Relations Manager
Walt Disney World**

Kyle is a Government Relations Manager with Walt Disney world. In her job she develops and implements a comprehensive Government Relations and political outreach plan to build strong relationships with our local/regional/ state/federal stakeholders that focuses on high-priority issues and uses various methods to build the Walt Disney Company reputation and advance their goals. She is also serving as liaison to corporate citizenship team and manages relationships with industry organizations that impact the corporate reputation and legislative agenda.

Kyle takes her role in the community very seriously and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Fund of Metro Orlando; a member of the Parramore Community Engagement Council; a member of The Orlando Chapter of the Links, Inc.; on Mayor Buddy Dyer's Martin Luther King Commission; Valencia Promise Take Stock in Children Mentorship Program; and the Mano a Mano Mentorship Program.

But her most important roles are mother to son, Chase, and daughter, Bailey, and wife to her husband, Edwin.

Kyle is a proud graduate of Tuskegee University and received her Master of Business Administration from American Intercontinental University.

Congratulations!

Orlando Health is proud to congratulate LaTasha Barnes, chief financial officer for Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies, for being recognized as Finance Honoree at the Women's Executive Council's 47th Annual Women's Achievement Awards.

Thank you for your dedication as a valued leader in our organization and your commitment to serving our local community. This is a well-deserved recognition.

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2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Finance Honoree



Latasha R. Barnes, CPA

**Assistant Vice President, Orlando Health | Chief Financial Officer
Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children | Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies**

With nearly 20 years of experience in healthcare finance, LaTasha Barnes oversees all aspects of financial operations at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies, including strategic and capital planning. LaTasha joined Orlando Health in February 2018, after briefly working with the system as a consultant. Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children is a 156-bed comprehensive pediatric hospital and Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies is a 350-bed women's health and neonatal intensive care hospital.

Prior to joining Orlando Health, LaTasha worked for nearly 15 years with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), serving most recently as Chief Financial Officer for Tampa Community Hospital (Tampa, Florida). LaTasha is a former auditor for Arthur Andersen, LLP and Deloitte & Touche, LLP.

LaTasha holds CPA licenses in both Florida and Tennessee, and holds a BBA in Accounting from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a member of the National Association of Black Accountants and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. LaTasha currently serves on the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors for Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts), Vice-Chair of Girls on the Run Central Florida Board of Directors and as Treasurer of the Board with the African American Chamber of Commerce Central Florida.

In her spare time, she is a flutist in the CFCArts Symphony Orchestra, Central Florida Sunshine Flutes and enjoys reading, writing, playing softball and walking her beagles Mindy and Sallie.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Public Service Honoree



Laura Bedard, PhD

**Chief of Corrections
Seminole County Jail**

Dr. Bedard began her work in corrections as a jail administrator over 33 years ago. Dr. Bedard served on the administrative faculty for the College of Criminology at Florida State University for 17 years. During her tenure at the University, she ran a study abroad program in the Czech Republic lecturing on crime topics in an emerging democracy. In 2005, she became the first female deputy secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections, where she was responsible for 27,000 state employees and over 200,000 offenders in the third largest correctional system in the country. She has served as warden at five facilities, which included supervision of State of Florida Inmates, Contracted Bureau of Prisons Inmates, U.S. Marshal's Inmates and Federal I.C.E. Detainees.

Dr. Bedard has published and lectured worldwide on a number of corrections-related topics including women in prison, mental health issues, and correctional leadership.

Dr. Bedard has a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire in Recreation Programming with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation, a master's degree from New Hampshire College, Counseling and Community Psychology, and received her Ph.D. in Social Work from Florida State University. She is also a graduate of Class #41 of the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute Chief Executive Seminar.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Transportation Honoree



Diane Crews

**President / CEO
Orlando Sanford
International Airport**

Diane is the first female president of the Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB), which surpassed 3 million passengers in 2018 and has a regional economic impact of more than \$2.6 billion. Seventeen years after graduating from Seminole High School, she began her higher education at Seminole State College, which honored her with the Distinguished Alumni Legacy Award. She went on to earn her B.A. and M.P.A. in public administration from the University of Central Florida.

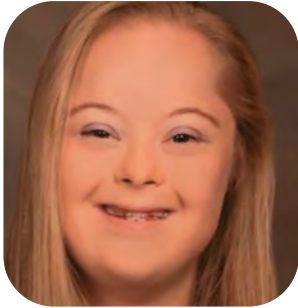
After working 11 years for the City of Sanford, Diane was offered the opportunity to serve at the Orlando Sanford International Airport. She accepted the vice president of administration position in 2001. Diane later became vice president of finance and administration. Her duties included managing airport-owned rental properties, acting as director of human resources, and serving as executive director of Foreign Trade Zone No. 250 and airport public information officer. She also oversaw all finance and administrative functions, becoming president and CEO in 2015.

Diane is most proud of creating job and travel opportunities, as well as improving the airport's infrastructure, airfield, terminals and commerce park. She recently received the Orlando Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Award.

Under Diane's leadership, the airport has undergone a major terminal expansion that honors the airport's motto - "SFB: Simpler. Faster. Better." A Sanford native, Diane is committed to giving back. She has served on numerous community boards and committees, including the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center, Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Seminole County Tourism Development Council, Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Rising Star Honoree



Faith-Christina Duncan

CEO

Imperfect Creations

Faith-Christina Duncan was born with Trisomy 21 or Down Syndrome. She is now 19 and has been accepted at Valencia College and began classes this Fall studying to get her B.S. in American Sign Language. She wanted to help others that had a need. Over the years, Faith-Christina has danced and competed with her dance company. She has learned to drive and is saving her money to buy her own car.

Faith-Christina focuses much of her time giving back to the community in the form of baby blankets she makes. They go into the newborn baskets given to new parents. This is an inspiration to the parents and the community as well. This shows parents what their baby can accomplish too. She received the David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award. Faith-Christina has made and donated numerous full size quilts to various organizations including Best Buddies and Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida.

Faith-Christina has grown up being treated no differently by her family and community than anyone else. She is very successful in her sewing ability and has spoken in front of many groups to encourage people to embrace their own ability and accept themselves. She was a guest speaker for Entrepreneur Academy through Central Florida Down Syndrome and was Spokesperson for ABLE United in April 2019.

Other awards Faith-Christina has received include "Everyday Hero of the Year" Spectrum News Channel 13; Chick Fil A Leadership Award; the Jennie Bronstein Citizenship Award; and the Blake Pyron Award.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Professional Honoree



Peggy Hoyt

Founding Partner

The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan

Peggy Hoyt is a co-founder of The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan. A firm that offers clients two Board Certified Attorneys doing Wills, Trusts and Estates and Elder Law. The firm was founded in 1999 and the main office is located in the heart of historic Oviedo, Florida.

Peggy is a trailblazer, championing rights for individuals and pets. She is a prolific speaker and uses that medium as a platform to bring issues to the forefront and offer solutions, education, and support to her audience.

Peggy is a passionate animal advocate and pet mom. She is the host of the weekly podcast **All My Children Wear Fur Coats** and is the founder/CEO of Animal Care Trust USA, the nation's only pet trust charity dedicated to keeping loved pets in loving homes.

Peggy is an author of twelve books with topics on women's legal issues, estate planning, trusts, issues being faced by those unwed and of course protecting your pets. She has devoted a couple of her books to discussing gratitude and the importance of telling your stories.

Peggy was recognized as the 2018-19 Women in the Pet Industry, Entrepreneur of the Year

Peggy is a Stetson University graduate receiving her B.B.A. in Marketing Management, cum laude; her M.B.A. in Finance; and her J.D., cum laude.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Science & Technology Honoree



Pamela McCauley, PhD

Business Owner: Transforming Your STEM Career and the National Science Foundation

Speaker, NSF Program Officer, Author, Full Professor at UCF

Dr. Pamela McCauley is an internationally recognized engineering researcher in the development of mathematical models, human engineering, and engineering leadership. She is an award-winning educator, who is on a mission to empower students and professionals to successfully pursue STEM educational and career goals. An author of over 100 technical publications, she serves as a Professor and Director of the Ergonomics Laboratory at the University of Central Florida and previously held the position of Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Associate Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In January 2018, she was selected as a Program Director for the National Science Foundation's I-Corps Program.

Over the past twenty years, Dr. McCauley has held various leadership positions and has received numerous awards in recognition of her commitment, professional accomplishments, and community outreach efforts in the business, technology, and education communities. She has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Oklahoma, the Engineer of the Year Award from the Florida Engineering Society, and has been recognized by the Society of Women Engineers as Engineering Educator of the Year. Dr. McCauley has also been recognized as one of the Ten Small Business Women of the Year in Central Florida; and the Millennium Woman of the Year by the Millennium Woman Foundation. Other honors include the Saturn/Glamour Magazine Women Making a Difference Award and MORE Magazine's 2016 Woman with MORE Award.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Health & Wellness Honoree



Romie Mustaq, MD
Chief Wellness Officer
Evolution Hospitality

Romila “Dr. Romie” Mushtaq, M.D., ABIHM, is a traditionally-trained neurologist with additional board certification in integrative medicine. Dr. Romie brings together Western medicine and Eastern wisdom to help individuals and audiences learn to heal from stress-based illnesses, achieve peak performance, and harness the power of mindful leadership. All of Dr. Romie's programs are based in neuroscience, positive psychology, and mindfulness.

Dr. Romie has been appointed Chief Wellness Officer for Evolution Hospitality. As Evolution Hospitality's Chief Wellness Officer, her initiatives have included research on the effects of digital device use in hospitality employees and implementing a corporate-wide meditation program - both of which are groundbreaking in not only the hospitality industry, but in Corporate America.

Dr. Romie is a national media expert and contributor in national press such as Fortune, Forbes, Success Magazine, Fox Business, The Huffington Post, and NPR. Dr. Romie shared her story and wisdom during her TEDx Talk “The Powerful Secret of Your Breath.”

Dr. Romie completed her medical training at the Medical University of South Carolina, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the University of Michigan, where she won numerous teaching and research awards. She previously served as faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin. After surviving career burnout and undergoing life-saving surgery, she traveled the world learning meditation, yoga and mindfulness techniques. She then used this knowledge to train and seek additional board certification in Integrative Medicine.



CONGRATULATIONS TO KAREN REVELS

Executive Director at Cannonball Kids' cancer Foundation, on receiving WEC's 2019 Women's Achievement Award for philanthropy! We're proud to honor your distinguished career in service to the Central Florida community.

Thank you for your leadership. Together we will change the status quo for childhood cancer in Central Florida and beyond!



A woman's work is unstoppable

CEOs, inventors, entrepreneurs, artists, teachers, doctors, bankers, innovators and trailblazers. Women have proven themselves in all of these and countless other roles. As we continue to lift barriers that can hold women back, there's no stopping what they can do in the workplace and beyond. That's why we're proud to support the Women's Executive Council and the 47th Annual Women's Achievement Awards.



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2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Philanthropy Honoree



Karen Revels

**Executive Director
Cannonball Kids' cancer Foundation**

Karen Revels is Executive Director of Cannonball Kids' cancer Foundation (CKc). Prior to her employment at CKc, she served as a founding member of their Board of Directors. Her creative and connective wheels are always turning to find new avenues to fund research for pediatric cancer through CKc. She is considered one of the area's thought leaders in the non-profit space and established herself as such during her time as Senior Manager of Philanthropy at Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at Rollins College.

Karen is a steadfast and caring advocate for children and takes her role as a community leader very seriously. Many in the nonprofit community know and respect Karen and her love of creating philanthropic practices and partnerships to improve Central Florida. Karen is a past Association of Fundraising Professionals Board member. She is recognized as a leader and is called upon to instruct and train fundraising, management, leadership, board governance best practices for hundreds of professionals and organizations.

Whether in her job or her community, Karen cares. Karen formed Conway Cares 8 years ago when kids in her neighborhood would go home on Friday not knowing where their next meal would come from. Today, they serve 120 at 3 schools - those who wouldn't have food from Friday lunch to Monday morning breakfast.

Karen has a B.S. in Public Administration from UCF and a Master's degree in Management from the UCF School of Business. She is also a graduate of Leadership Orlando and Leadership Brevard and has 21 years executive level experience in the nonprofit sector.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Business Honoree



Frances Rios
CEO
Women Who Lead, LLC.

Frances Rios is an international speaker and expert on women's advancement and inclusion. When leaders think about women in business, they think of Frances. Not because of her gender, but because she helps them create measurable programs to attract and retain the best female talent and ignite profits.

In addition to being a former top executive for Fortune 100 companies like Walmart and Humana, Frances has also used her skills as an entrepreneur and professional speaker to support companies like Microsoft, Merck, RSM, Medtronic, Banco Santander, Pepsico, L'Oréal, and Boston Scientific.

Frances has used her unique diagnostic tool, the W Certified Company™, to survey thousands of women about their workplace experiences and learned that they are, indeed, committed to help their employers grow! She and her team help small to large organizations make that fact work to their favor.

For over 10 years, this one-stop firm has created and offered solutions to help companies be recognized as preferred employers for women, and as a result: Strengthen their reputation, prevent costly lawsuits and crises, elevate the engagement level among employees, and ignite profits.

Frances is a graduate of Loyola University in New Orleans and a Puerto Rican business leader with headquarters in Orlando. She has been a speaker at the Forbes magazine's Most Powerful Women Summit and was appointed to the Women's Council in Puerto Rico by the Governor.

She can be seen often in news media outlets like: CNN, ABC, FOX, CBS, IHeart Radio, Univision, and Telemundo.

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Government Honoree



Diana Tennis

**Judge
Ninth Circuit Court of Florida**

Diana Tennis was elected to the Circuit bench for Orange and Osceola counties in 2014. Judge Tennis was assigned to domestic court, where she remains; helping families to deal with the complex legal system at the most difficult times of their lives. Since beginning her legal career, Judge Tennis has been passionate about improving our community's access to justice.

Judge Tennis ran her own law firm for 22 years, and at one time was one of few women attorneys handling high profile murder cases. Having learned from those experiences, she began teaching lawyers the intricacies of death penalty law and other areas of trial practice in an effort to pay it forward and help younger lawyers. Judge Tennis handled the publicized exoneration of wrongly accused "tourist rapist" Kenny Taylor pro bono, after which local and national media began looking to her for concise and accessible legal commentary. Prior to being elected she was a frequent guest on local and national media, including providing "gavel to gavel" coverage of the Casey Anthony and George Zimmerman trials, helping an enthralled community understand our courts better.

Judge Tennis continues her efforts to improve the legal process; hosting regular educational seminars for lawyers, speaking to the public and by providing specialized software for family law attorneys and litigants.

Judge Tennis is an avid traveler, a foodie and home chef, and loves the theater. She lives with her husband Michael, a software developer and their two cats in Winter Park.



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KAREN WILLIS, CEO

for being the recipient of the Women's Executive Council's 2019 Woman of Achievement in Education Award.



EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF ORANGE COUNTY

2019 Women's Achievement Awards

Education Honoree



Karen Willis CWDP

CEO

**Early Learning Coalition of
Orange County**

Karen Willis has served as Chief Executive Officer for the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County since January 2007, where she ensures the appropriate investment of over \$71 million in state, federal and local funding to benefit Orange County's youngest citizens. She has over 40 years of experience designing, managing and administering publicly funded programs at both the local and state levels – primarily those focused on services to youth, the physically challenged, and the unemployed and underemployed. She is a graduate of Leadership Brevard, Leadership Orlando, Leadership Seminole, Leadership Orange, Leadership Law, Leadership West Orange, and the inaugural class of Leadership Orlando 2.0.

Karen currently serves as chair emeritus of the Central Florida Regional Committee for the Children's Movement of Florida and is a past chair of the Orange County Children's Cabinet. She is a member of Orange County League of Women Voters, Women's Executive Council, Association of Early Learning Coalitions, West Orlando Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, East Orlando Chamber of Commerce, and Orlando, Inc.

In 2012 she was inducted into the Florida Family Child Care Home Association Advocate Hall of Fame and in 2019 was named one of Orlando Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business.

During her tenure, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County has been awarded Central Florida Urban League's 2019 Cornerstone Award for Youth Empowerment and the City of Orlando's 2019 Community Builder Award.

**“An investment in knowledge
pays the best interest.”**

-Benjamin Franklin

We are proud to support the Women's Executive Council in its mission to recognize and inspire Central Florida's women leaders and students.

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by **creating** opportunities to
recognize and **inspire** women
leaders and students to **serve** our
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2019 Women's Achievement Awards Woman of the Year



Leticia Diaz

Dean and Professor of Law

Barry University

Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law

Leticia M. Diaz is one of the founding faculty of Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law and appointed dean in 2007. During her tenure as dean, the law school has emerged as a leader in legal education in Florida, featuring nationally recognized Moot Court and Trial Team programs, a growing faculty, and a multi-million dollar expansion of its campus with two new buildings. Diaz is the first Cuban-American female to hold the position of dean at an ABA-accredited law school in the United States.

This year, the Orlando Business Journal will honor Diaz with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Diversity in Business Awards. In 2018, Orlando Magazine named Diaz one of the Women Who Move the City for the second consecutive year.

In recent years, Onyx Magazine honored Diaz as one of their Women on the Move and she received the Floridiana Award from the Cuban Women's Club. In addition, Diaz was named as a Woman Worth Watching by Profiles in Diversity Journal. She was also recently featured on the cover of the magazine Diverse Issues in Higher Education for her work in diversifying the legal profession.

Under Diaz's leadership, Barry Law School's minority student enrollment has increased substantially. Barry Law received recognition for diversity from several national publications, including U.S. News & World Report, who ranked Barry Law 8th nationally among law schools for diversity. More recently, PreLaw Magazine gave the law school an A+ ranking for its diversity in 2019, and identified the law school as one of the "Most Diverse Law Schools."

Congratulations!

BARRY LAW DEAN
LETICIA M. DIAZ

for being selected as

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OF THE
YEAR**
Women's Executive Council

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2019 preLaw Magazine
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DEAN LETICIA M. DIAZ Ph.D., J.D.

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2019 Women's Achievement Awards Committee*

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Thank you to those
members who helped
with this labor of love.

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