



For more information contact:
Laurie Waters
Marketing & Communications Mgr.
(314) 531-1115x259
(314) 609-8464 cell
lwaters@ywcastlouis.org

NEWS RELEASE

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YWCA to Honor Nine Area Women for Outstanding Work Leaders of Distinction to be Recognized at Annual Leader Lunch

St. Louis - What do these top level executives in the worlds of finance, education, marketing, energy, agriculture, technology and a former journalist turned social activist have in common? They all have been chosen by YWCA Metro St. Louis as Leaders of Distinction to be honored at the 33rd annual Leader Lunch in December and recognized by the approximately 1,000 guests in attendance.

Leader Lunch is the area's premier event honoring women for their achievements in the workplace and the community. The women named to the Academy of Leaders are the role models who are empowering women and working every day to eliminate racism. In other words, these women personify the YWCA mission. They truly are instrumental in shaping our region.

YWCA Metro St. Louis is proud to announce this year's Leaders of Distinction. Attached please find additional information and photographs of each Honoree.

YWCA St. Louis 2013 Leaders of Distinction

- **Marilyn K. Bush, SVP and Senior Client Manager, Bank of America Merrill Lynch**
- **Theresa Carrington, Founder, The Blessing Basket Project**
- **Sharon Harvey Davis, VP and Chief Diversity Officer, Ameren**
- **Jane Eckert, Founder and CEO, Eckert AgriMarketing**
- **Lisa Nichols, CEO and Co-Founder, Technology Partners, Inc.**
- **Gwendolyn D. Packnett, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor, U. of MO-St. Louis**
- **Nicole Ringenberg, Vice President and Controller, Monsanto Company**
- **Suzanne Sitherwood, CEO, The Laclede Group**
- **Gail E. Taylor, Brand Manager and Shopper Marketing, Energizer Holdings, Inc.**

Leader Lunch 33 will be held December 5, 2013, at the Millennium Hotel in downtown St. Louis. For more information about Leader Lunch go to www.ywcastlouis.org and to see videos of previous Honorees, click on our You Tube channel.

YWCA Metro St. Louis is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women, educating children, developing youth and eliminating racism. It focuses on race equity issues and offers housing for women on the move, early learning, crisis intervention, life skills training, and youth and teen development. YWCA is a proud United Way of Greater St. Louis member agency.

