



Bustle Reveals The 2016 Upstart Award Winners, Honoring Fifteen Young Women Who Are Breaking Boundaries

- This year's winners include a leader helping to destigmatize birth control, the first trans woman to graduate from Mississippi University for Women and the youngest elected official in the history of the District of Columbia government -

NEW YORK – September 13, 2016 – Bustle, the largest digital media property aimed at Millennial women, is proud to announce the [2016 Bustle Upstart Award winners](#) highlighting fifteen inspiring women who are breaking boundaries and making their voices heard. Founded in 2014, Bustle's Upstart Awards honor the incredible achievements of recent and upcoming female college graduates, who are dedicated to making a difference in STEM, politics, fashion + beauty, the environment, the arts, and beyond.

The winners will be celebrated at an event on October 6 at the Wythe Hotel in Brooklyn, New York, featuring a panel discussion with women who have achieved success across a multitude of industries and a cocktail reception. Confirmed panelists include: former ABC News journalist and author Lynn Sherr; Daily Beast Political Columnist Keli Goff; Distractify Video Associate and Bachelor alum Olivia Caridi; AptDeco Founder Reham Fagiri; and Bionic Vice President Christina Wallace. The panel will be moderated by Bustle Editor-in-Chief Kate Ward.

"Ever since Bustle's inception, we've been passionate about bringing attention to women's voices. And with the Upstart Awards, we hope to bring attention to the fifteen women who have used their voices to accomplish amazing things," said Bustle Editor-in-Chief Kate Ward. "For the second year, we're excited to toast young entrepreneurs and creative minds who have achieved so much in so little time. I couldn't imagine a more impressive group of women to be inspired by."

The 2016 Bustle Upstart Award Honorees:

- **Erica Benamy:** Creator of PillTalk, the multi-part campaign centered around the destigmatization of birth control
- **Blossom Brown:** First trans woman to graduate from Mississippi University for Women, who received national acclaim after sharing her moving story about discrimination on I Am Cait
- **Allyson Carpenter:** Youngest elected official in the history of the District of Columbia government
- **Ivonna Dumanyan & Gabrielle Levac:** Founders of [BioMetrix](#) and maker of BioMX, a wearable device that tracks athlete's recovery
- **Daniela Fernandez:** Founder of the [Georgetown Sustainable Oceans Alliance](#), a student-led organization that empowers Millennials to help preserve the health and sustainability of our oceans
- **Lucy Jones:** Recipient of the Parsons Womenswear Designer of the Year Award for her line designed to improve the lives of disabled people
- **Shana Knizhnik:** Author of the [Notorious RBG](#)
- **Katie Maraghy:** Creator and executive producer of Elon University's Emmy-winning morning news show
- **Regina Monge:** Millennial Advisory Board Member for [BeVisible Latinx](#), the first social networking and career-building site for Latinas by Latinas
- **Donya Nasser:** Youngest Board Director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- **Olivia Pavco-Giaccia:** Founder and CEO of [LabCandy](#), a social enterprise venture aimed at getting young girls and boys interested in science.
- **Mahnaz Rezaie:** Writer for the [Afghan Women's Writing Project](#) and filmmaker whose short film explored how wearing a hijab affected her relationships when she came to the U.S.
- **Ruchi Shah:** Founder and CEO of [Mosquitoes Be Gone](#), an all-natural mosquito repellent that can be shipped worldwide inexpensively and help protect against malaria
- **Taylor Yocom:** Creator of the photography series [Guarded](#) which helps confront the realities of sexual assault and rape culture

To learn more about this years' recipients, visit:

<http://www.bustle.com/upstart-awards-2016>

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Media Contact:

Lindsey Green: lindsey@bustle.com | [646-239-0852](tel:646-239-0852)