

YWCA Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon

The nineteenth annual **YWCA Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon** will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at the Civic Arena. At last year's luncheon, over 1,000 guests were in attendance as we honored outstanding women and employers. We are excited to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be Sara Beth Myers. Sara is from St. Joseph and obtained her undergrad at Duke, her Master's at Yale, and later going to law school at Vanderbilt. She began volunteering in a street law program. During that year, Sara worked with survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Sara is currently an Assistant United States Attorney, the founder and Chairman of the Board of AWAKE: Advocates for Women's and Kids' Equality. Her passion to help others and her drive is sure to inspire us all!

As co-chairs of the Steering Committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in this year's awards in the following ways:

1. Nominate – Nomination forms for the 2020 awards can be accessed online at ywcasj.org, dropped off at 304 N. 8th St. St. Joseph, MO 64501 or emailed to WOE@ywcasj.org. **Nomination forms are due no later than Sunday, March 15.** All nominees will be honored at a reception held on May 13th at the YWCA from 5:00 – 7: 00 p.m., and at the awards luncheon on June 20.
2. Attend – Mark your calendar and join us in saluting women and employers at this year's luncheon. We are offering a limited number of tables to groups who would like to be recognized at the event. Tables are \$400 and include ten place settings. Individual tickets are also available at a cost of \$40.

There are several categories in which you may nominate a woman, including Entrepreneurship, Workplace, Leadership, Volunteerism, and Emerging Leader. In addition, you may nominate a business as an Employer of Excellence. Also, a young woman in her senior year of high school will be chosen as a Future Leader and receive a college scholarship. *(These nominations are made by the high school counselors.)*

Nominate women who:

- Work or volunteer in the St. Joseph area;
- Demonstrate sustained excellence and creativity;
- Make significant contributions in their chosen field of work or volunteerism;
- Promote positive attitudes and high morale in their work or volunteerism.

Nominate employers and entrepreneurs that:

- Provide a positive work environment;
- Empower women to develop leadership skills and seek advancement;
- Consistently promote women to positions of leadership.

From these nominees, one in each category will be chosen as the 2020 award recipient. The award recipients will be chosen by a group of community members with diverse backgrounds. All nominee names will be concealed from these judges to help ensure impartiality in the selection process.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact the YWCA at 816-232-4481 and ask for Mindy Grooms or email WOE@ywcasj.org. We hope you will join us as we recognize outstanding women and employers at the annual Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon.

Sincerely,

Natalie Redmond

LeeAnn Leonard

2020 Women of Excellence Steering Committee Co-Chairs