



Mission

Supporting, developing and honoring women leaders
Inspiring women to achieve their full potential
Creating balance in leadership worldwide

ATHENA'S UNIQUE POSITION IS BASED ON...

ATHENA LEADERSHIP MODEL

The ATHENA Leadership Model is unique in that it focuses on personal traits of strong, successful leaders. It captures the spirit and collaborative leadership style often exemplified in women leaders, while also recognizing the importance of traits such as courageous acts and fierce advocacy in the pursuit of excellence. The ATHENA Leadership Model tenets include Authentic Self, Celebration and Joy, Collaboration, Courageous Acts, Fierce Advocacy, Giving Back, Learning and Relationships, and provide a model for 21st Century leadership.

ATHENA AWARD

The ATHENA Award is represented by an original bronze and marble sculpture inspired by the goddess of Greek mythology known for her strength, courage, wisdom and enlightenment—qualities embodied in the ATHENA leadership model. The Award is unique in both scope---local, national and international---and the ATHENA mission upon which it is based. The ATHENA Award is presented to a woman ---or man--- who is honored for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

IN THE BEGINNING

The ATHENA Award Program was created through the Chamber of Commerce in Lansing, Michigan in 1982 by Martha Mayhood Mertz, owner of Mayhood/Mertz Realtors, Inc. Her goal was to bring into focus the outstanding professional and business women in the community and to encourage the opening of leadership opportunities for women within the chamber of commerce and the community's workplaces.

EXPANSION IN THE U.S. AND BEYOND OUR BORDERS

Today, the non-profit ATHENA Foundation administers ATHENA Award Programs worldwide. The ATHENA Foundation supports, develops and honors women leaders, inspiring women to achieve their full potential - creating balance in leadership worldwide. The Foundation assists individuals and organizations in opening doors of leadership opportunity for women and promotes the ATHENA philosophy and values in the workplace.

The annual award program has grown to include over 500 U.S. cities and has recognized more than 5,000 women and men for professional accomplishments, community service, and actively assisting women in realizing their full leadership

potential. The Pittsburgh ATHENA Award Program is the largest stand-alone chapter in the world, attracting more than 800 attendees to its annual luncheon.

In May 1994, Moscow, Russia, became the first city outside the United States to present the ATHENA Award. In 1996, Windsor, Ontario, Canada became the first Canadian city to present the ATHENA Award. In 2005 Rotherham Chamber of Commerce in England becomes the first city in the UK to present the ATHENA Award.

Athena Award Recipients

1994	Mardelle Weymouth
1995	Cynthia S. Ball Bergman
1996	Lorabeth Fitzgerald
1997	Marilyn Smith
1998	Nancy Block (Deceased May 2004)
1999	Jo Lehman
2000	Helen Holihan
2001	Elizabeth Andrews
2002	Elizabeth Brandon
2003	Vicki Paski
2004	Karla Chamberlain
2005	Nancy Page
2006	Cheri Locker
2007	Susan Sasse
2008	Kelli Ellsworth-Etchison