



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 Recipient 2006

Agent/Owner Receives Athena Award

Cheri Locker is the 2006 winner of the Grand Ledge Area Athena Award. Cheri came to Grand Ledge fifteen years ago as the youngest agent/owner in the State Farm family of Insurance Agencies. She is licensed as a property/casualty and life/health agent. Her husband Rob is a full-time partner in the office. She has continually supported leadership development and advancement of people by having Grand Ledge High School co-op students train in her office, and by hiring and training staff that have gone on to State Farm Insurance regional offices.

Cheri is a graduate from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Business. Very active in her college life, she joined a business management club, and became president. During her rein as president she expanded the membership to over 60 members.

Presently, Cheri serves on the Michigan Automobile Insurance Placement Facility Board. Appointed by Governor Engler, she is the first captive agent to serve on this Board. Her involvement in the Insurance industry has lead to many awards. Her recognitions include: National Multiline Sales Award, Legion of Honor/Bronze/Sliver Scroll Qualifier, Great Lakes Zone Leaders Club, Ambassador Travel Qualifier, as well as numerous Life Insurance Sales Awards. Additionally, Cheri Locker was voted Favorite Insurance Agent, by the Lansing Community Newspaper People's Choice Award.

Cheri has demonstrated leadership excellence, not only in her business profession, but in her efforts to give back to her community. She is a member of the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce, previously serving on the Board of Directors, and has served several times as a Chairperson for the annual Yankee Doodle Days parade. At the present time she is the Chairperson of the Ledges Playhouse Restoration Committee, a huge project in which Cheri has worked tirelessly against great odds.

Cheri's involvement in the Grand Ledge Public Schools has been exceptional. She and her husband Rob have devoted time to the Grand Ledge Public Schools, representing State Farm Insurance in the program titled, "Be A Good Neighbor, Be A Designated Driver." This program is meant to benefit the public and remind our high school students to abstain from alcohol.

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



Left to Right (Back Row) Vicki Paski, Karla Chamberlain, Jo Lehman, Nancy Page, Elizabeth Andrews. Left to Right (Front Row) Helen Holihan, Mardelle Weymouth, Marilyn Smith, Elizabeth Brandon. (Missing from picture is Cynthia S. Ball Bergman, Lorabeth Fitzgerald, Cheri Locker.



The 2007 ATHENA recipient will be announced and honored at the Chamber's Annual Dinner.

Nomination form for the ATHENA Award 2007

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