

Twenty-two experienced and emerging leaders have been chosen as finalists for the 2016 Athena Award and Athena Young Professional Award.

The Women's Council of the Rochester Business Alliance Inc. today revealed the names of the women who are contenders for these honors.

The Athena Award recognizes women who are achievers in the workplace and give back to the community. These women also support others in their attainment of excellence at work and leadership skills. Last January, Amy Tait, chairman and CEO of Broadstone Real Estate LLC, received the 2015 Athena Award.

The Athena Young Professional Award honors up-and-coming leaders who demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession and are in the 30-45 age group. These professionals also are committed to improving others' quality of life in the community while serving as role models for young women. Claudia Burcke, the former managing director of business development at Greater Rochester Enterprise Inc., took home the 2015 honor.

The 2016 recipients are to be announced at a luncheon on January 11, 2016, at 12:00 p.m. at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center.



- Melissa Brown, CDS Monarch Inc.
- Katrina Busch, Roberts Communications Inc.
- Dorothy Coleman, Excellus Blue-Cross BlueShield
- Marilyn Patterson Grant, M.P. Grant LLC
- Rachel DeGuzman, 21st Century Arts
- Deborah Hughes, National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House
- Susan Latoski, Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley
- Lesli Myers, Brockport Central School District
- Kathleen Pringle, Kathleen Pringle Group Inc.
- Elaine Spaul, Center for Youth
- Patricia Uttaro, Rochester Public Library and the Monroe County Library System
- Lori Van Dusen, LVW Advisors

The 2016 Athena Young Professional finalists are:

- Traci Adolph, Tra-Lin Corp.
- Lauren Gallina, Gallina Development Corp.
- Alyssa Belasco, The Highlands at Pittsford
- Sufiya Kwaja, Bank of America Corp.
- Jessica Lord, Volunteers of America Western New York
- Lindsay Morrow-Lilly, Canandaigua National Bank & Trust Co.
- Katelin Pellett, Ad Council of Rochester
- Leah Tarantino, Underberg & Kessler LLP
- Erin Tolefree, Baldwin Richardson Foods Co.
- Melanie Wolk, Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina P.C.