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NAWBO Greater Detroit announces 2016 Michigan Top 10 Business Women Awards

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By Roz Edward, National Content Director

Henry Ford Health System CEO Nancy Schlichting to deliver keynote address

The National Association of Women Business Owners Greater Detroit Chapter will present its 22nd annual Top 10 Michigan Business Women Awards ceremony on March 17, hosted by Emmy-winning broadcast journalist Paula Tutman. The annual celebration will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Laurel Manor in Livonia, and will honor the state's outstanding women business owners, entrepreneurs and community leaders for their contributions to excellence and innovation in a variety of fields.

The winners of the 2016 Top 10 Michigan Business Women awards represent a broad range of industries, including communication, medical, manufacturing and non-profit. While some awardees have led businesses for decades, others have become trailblazers in their fields in only the last five years. The evening's program will be dedicated to honoring these outstanding women in categories such as the Diversity Champion, Giving Spirit and Global Business Awards. In addition, an eleventh honor, known as the Greater Good Award, will be presented to Crain's Detroit Business publisher Mary Kramer.

"Reading through this year's list of honorees, it's undeniable that women continue to play an integral, vital role as leaders in our regional business landscape," said Tanya R. Allen, president of NAWBO Greater Detroit. "The quality and caliber of these women, including all those that were nominated, speaks to the strength of the entrepreneurial spirit that has not only provided stability in our region through the difficult times, but distinguished southeast Michigan as a driver of the state's economic revival and success."

Nancy Schlichting, CEO of Henry Ford Health System, will be the keynote speaker for the evening. Known as one of the most powerful figures in the health care industry, she is credited

with leading the health system through a dramatic financial turnaround, and for implementing award-winning patient safety, customer service and diversity initiatives. Schlichting is a frequent executive speaker on the topics of leadership and innovation, and is the author of "Unconventional Leadership."

Schlichting will also be signing copies of her book at a pre-ceremony VIP reception beginning at 5 p.m. (limited tickets available.) Tickets for the VIP event and the full ceremony can be purchased through March 11. For additional options, and to purchase tickets online, visit www.nawbogdc.org.

The evening will feature a raffle to win a two-year lease on a 2016 Dodge Ram Truck. Tickets will be available during the event. Entrants need not be present to win. For details on purchasing raffle tickets, call 313.961.4748 or email treasurer1@nawbogdc.org.

The 2016 NAWBO Greater Detroit Top 10 Business Woman Awards is sponsored by Comerica Bank, Goldman Sachs, Varnum Law, Henry Ford Health Systems and Health Alliance Plan. The deadline for purchasing advertising space for the event is March 1.

The 2015 Top 10 Michigan Business Women award recipients are:

Breakthrough Award – Katana Abbott, founder, Smart Women’s Coaching

Diversity Champion Award – Sylvia Daniels, supplier diversity coordinator, Henry Ford Health System

Giving Spirit Award – Cynthia Greening, founder and CEO, Hands of Hope for Tanzania

Global Business Award – Alison Vaughn, founder and CEO, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.

Pinnacle Award – Jennifer O’Brien, founder and president, Accounting Business Solutions

Rainmaker Award – Lisa Lunsford, founder and CEO, Global Strategic Supply Solutions

Red-Tape Buster Award – Akousa Barthwell Evans, CEO, The Barthwell Group

Up-and-Coming Award – Pamela Smith, managing member, PTS Compliance Consulting, LLC

Warrior Award – Cheryl Hudson, owner and operator, Woodhouse Day Spa Detroit

Words of Wisdom Award – Jocelyn Giangrande, founder and president, Sashe, LLC

Greater Good Award – Mary Kramer, publisher, Crain’s Detroit Business

The Greater Detroit Chapter of NAWBO is the premier business resource for women business owners in Southeast Michigan. NAWBO was founded in 1975 and has over 5000 members in 60 chapters across the United States. NAWBO Greater Detroit’s membership includes the finest women entrepreneurs in the area, sharing their experience and empowering each other through NAWBO membership. Their companies include emerging enterprises, sole proprietorships and longstanding companies with multi-million dollar revenue. For more information, visit:

<http://nawbogdc.org/index.php>.