

*Influential*  
WOMEN  
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

# Awards

# BANQUET

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

# LOVE YOUR *extraordinary* LIFE

Healthcare that understands the value of a life well lived is more than medicine. It's a partnership, a promise, that each day will be met with compassion and each challenge with dignity.

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# Our Executive Committee



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**Chair**  
Vice President Treasury  
Management Officer | Horizon Bank



**Aida Abuelizam**  
**Vice Chair**  
Manager, Strategy and Risk Operations  
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**Secretary**  
Operations Manager  
ArcelorMittal R&D



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**Treasurer**  
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**Andrea Pearman, IOM**  
**Executive Director**  
President & CEO  
Diversified Marketing Strategies

# Our Board of Directors

**Debie Coble**  
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NWIIWA

**Robert Joseph**  
ArcelorMittal R&D

**Teri Wallace**  
Wallace Consulting, LLC

# About NWIIWA

## Our Mission

NWIIWA is the leading group in our region for the professional development of women and their careers. Our mission focuses on providing opportunities for professional growth through leadership, support, and education in a variety of industries. Together, we support the continuing advancement of women by bringing together the region's most successful professionals in all areas of business, industry, and community service.

NWIIWA is a 501c3 non-profit and all donations are tax deductible. Our EIN is 82-4916792.

## Benefits of Membership for NWIIWA

There are other niche organizations in the region that conduct similar efforts, but no overall group bridges the gap between companies—until now. Being a NWIIWA member means:

- Being part of an active organization centered around engagement, not attendance. Don't meet for frequent, stuffy meetings!
- Making meaningful connections that can further careers.
- Laying the groundwork for personal and professional growth for members, associates, companies, and the community!
- Building a network of peers and mentors that can support your growth and lend insight.
- Benefiting from collaborative events and connections with other members.
- Sharing best practices.
- Discovering new educational avenues.

# Congratulations to all Nominees



**ArcelorMittal** Research and Development  
East Chicago Laboratories

3001 East Columbus Drive  
East Chicago, IN 46312-2939  
[corporate.arcelormittal.com](http://corporate.arcelormittal.com)



ArcelorMittal

# 2024 Influential Women Award Winners

Community Leader of the Year  
Mayor Angie Nelson Deutich

Supporter of the Year  
Aida Abuelizam

Youth Award Winner  
Maddie Wimple

Lifetime Achievement Award  
Andrea Pearman, IOM

## Up & Coming Women of the Year Winners

Overall  
Dr. Maria Hughes

Arts  
LaQuisha Jackson

Business  
Shaya Wimple

Construction & Manufacturing  
Melissa McLindon

Economic Development and Government  
"Miss Robin" Arvanitis

Education  
Roxanna O'Rourke

Finance  
Shvonne Barber

Healthcare  
Kele Ivey, BSN, RN, SANE-A

Law  
Courtney Smith

Marketing & Media  
Susan Thompson

Nonprofit  
Brittany Caraballo

Service & Tourism  
Tracee Jury

STEM  
Rachel Ritter

## Influential Women of the Year Winners

Overall  
Amy Henningfield

Arts  
Debra Bolaños

Business  
Rhonda Zaluckyj

Construction & Manufacturing  
Morgan Davis

Economic Development and Government  
Julie Wendorf

Education  
Gisele Casanova

Finance  
Katie Craig

Healthcare  
Regina Nelson

Law  
Amy Nowaczyk

Marketing & Media  
Christi Hardesty

Nonprofit  
Sheila Chandler

Service & Tourism  
Jeny Burkhart

STEM  
Alyssa Nyberg

# Celebrate You!

Following the awards ceremony, please gather in the lobby for our

## Annual Winners Staircase Photo

All photos from tonight will be available to download and share on the NWIIWA Facebook Page



# 2025 Influential Women Finalists

## Arts Up & Coming Finalists

**Aimee Cooper**  
MixDesign

**Alexandria "Ally" Shinkan**  
Region Theater Company

**Brittney Drakoulis**  
NailBritt

**Christina Bellosso-Baugh**  
Renewed Movement

**Megan Pearson**  
Meg Pearson Photo

**Melissa Hamming**  
The Cracked Glass Studio

**Dru Downen**  
Famous Athletics

**Brittany Edmonds**  
Famous Athletics All-Star  
Cheer and Tumbling

**Buffy Van Huis**  
Gateway Triangle Corp

**Courtney Palasz**  
Kahler Middle School

**Jayde McAloon**  
Pieces of Jayde

**Lorna Collette  
Moore-Davidson**  
MS ELLE'S especially for you

**Margaret Gomez**  
Ballet Folkloric Yolotzin

**Morgan Hecht**  
Makeup by Morgan



## Business Up & Coming Finalists

### Allison James

Family Express Corporation

### Amber Bol

BooXkeeping Northwest Indiana

### America Echeverria

Biggby Coffee Highland

### April Glueckert

Calumet Lumber Inc.

### Cate Sullivan

Biggby Coffee Highland

### Hannah Chapman

Property Management Inc. NWI

### Heidi Morgan

Belle Ame Boutique

### Jay Cherry

DRIIP Clothing

### Jessica Aguilar

A Thriving Mind LLC

### Jessica Enriquez

Sisterhood Social Co.  
Expand Brand Agency

### Kandis Frizell

Herkandyglam  
Lash Bar & Lash Supply

### Katie Agopian

Gateway Triangle Corp

### Lauren Najar

Lauren Najar Coaching

### Lauren Peters

Fringe + Ink Creative Co.

### Laurie Farver-Busch

Bon Vie

### Lindsey Liesenfelt

Truly Teas

### Michelle Czyszon

Latitude Commercial

### Miranda Marquez

Luke Family of Brands

### Ruhani Sharma

CITGO Gas Station - Highland

### Samantha Wilkins

Luke Family of Brands

### Savannah Andersen

Like Honey X Botanical  
Skin and Body

### Vanessa Bajda

Luke Oil

### Victoria Pierce

Double Take Body Studio

## Influential Finalists

### Carrie Campbell

Hatfield Pest Control and  
McCoy Wildlife Control

### Dana Gibson

Associated Pediatricians, LLC

### Gretchen Sipp

Nexus Strategy  
and Implementation

### Jeny Burkhardt

The Waxy Taxi

### Judy Cruse

Quality Impressions Print & Design

### Kathy Neary

Center of Workforce Innovations

### Lisa Kaszubski

MCLC, CMP  
Sister, We Hear You

### Oshima Ahuja

Tandoor Indian Cuisine

### Penny Schlyer

Authentic Impact  
Business Coaching

### Pooja Puri

Brow Art 23

### Rhonda Lowe

Luke

### Sami Welter

Ella Jayms

### Stephanie Maderas

Revolution Fitness

### Tamera Lienhart

bp America, Inc.

### Tiff Arcella

Moving Sales Foward

# Construction & Manufacturing Up & Coming Finalists

**Ashley Henningfield**  
Milestone Contractors, Inc.

**Drew Sarkisian**  
Modern Edge LLC

**Lisa (Juergens) Heber**  
NIPSCO

**Meredith Moran-Pruim**  
Korellis Roofing, Inc.

**Natalie Brown**  
Superior Construction

**Samantha Paulus**  
Superior Construction

**Sarah Lewis**  
Superior Construction

**Stefanee Asche**  
Calumet Lumber Inc

**Wendy Peterson**  
Michuda Construction

**Zasmine Glenn**  
United Rentals

## Influential Finalists

**Chloe Sweet**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Dorothy Falk**  
Falk PLI

**Kathy Trebiani**  
ArcelorMittal USA Research

**Katrina Bruner**  
Superior Construction Company

**Lisa Martin**  
Sensit Technologies

**Mackie Stankich**  
ArcelorMittal

**Missy Wacasey**  
Cleveland-Cliffs

**Raeann Trakas**  
Cleveland-Cliffs

**Stacy Bibian**  
Larson-Danielson  
Construction Co., Inc.

# Economic Development & Government Up & Coming Finalists

**Amy Blaker**  
Lochmueller Group

**Bailey Tombers**  
LCEA

**Ellen Kapitan**  
City of Valparaiso

**Heather Stevens**  
Circuit Court Clerk's Office

**Justine Carlotta**  
Westchester Public Library

**Kelly Anthony**  
US Senate

**Keri Marrs Barron**  
Recycling & Waste Reduction  
District of Porter County

**Mariana Naglosky**  
FSSA /Division of Family Resources

**Natalie Kasberger**  
Valparaiso Police Department

**Lisa Pierzakowski**  
Center Township Trustee - La Porte

**Mary Celita Green**  
City of Gary

## Influential Finalists

**Miss Robin Arvanitis**  
Town of Schererville

**Vanessa Lynch**  
Valpo Chamber & VEDC

**Teresa Janovitz**  
Portage Fire Department

# Education

## Up & Coming Finalists

**Dominique Williams**  
Sparky Brains Tutoring

**Flor Andersen**  
Ivy Tech Community College  
Lake County

**Jen Ward**  
Suncrest Church

**Jessica Underwood**  
Ivy Tech Community College

**Allison Urbanczyk**  
Valparaiso University

**Dr. Pamela Moore**  
Tri-Township Consolidated  
School Corporation

**Dr. Uzoma Obidike**  
She Leads Beautifully

**Jaclyn Barkow**  
Indiana University Northwest

**Jokima Hiller**  
Indiana University Northwest

**Kaitlyn Vasilko**  
Purdue University Northwest

**Katelyn Caragher**  
Purdue University Northwest

**Kayla Vasilko**  
Ivy Tech Community College

**Krystie Reed**  
Purdue University Northwest

**Samantha Horn**  
Purdue Northwest  
College of Business

**Samantha Madrigal**  
Ivy Tech Community  
College Lake County

## Influential Finalists

**Keana Baylis**  
Little Village Home Child Care LLC

**Kristen Doty**  
LaPorte Community School Corporation

**Laura Robbins**  
South Newton High School

**Linda Padilla**  
Benjamin Harrison Elementary School

**Mandy Morrill**  
Valparaiso University

**Neeti Parashar**  
Purdue University Northwest

**Padmini Makam**  
Chinmaya Mission NWI

**Stacia Bolakowski**  
Marian University's Ancilla College

**Valentine Torres**  
City of Hobart



## Finance Up & Coming Finalists

**Alicia Perez Johnson**  
Cleveland-Cliffs

**Ashley Stephan**  
Centier Bank

**Heather Cipolla**  
Wallace Consulting LLC

**Jennifer Buck**  
Everwise Credit Union

**Jennifer Guay**  
Sensit Technologies LLC

**Katie Cortes**  
Everwise Credit Union

**Mindy Patrick**  
ArcelorMittal

**Nychi Heath**  
Old National Bank

**Randi Webber**  
Rural 1st

**Robin Sobomehin**  
Social Coaching-Credit Repair

## Influential Finalists

**Amanda McKenzie**  
First Community Mortgage  
Amanda McKenzie Team

**Carrie Upchurch**  
Everwise Credit Union

**Charlene Lewis**  
Fifth Third Bank

**Erin Valdivia**  
Shelter Insurance

**Gena Poulos**  
Wintrust Indiana

**Gina Fezler**  
B-MO

**Pleya Nacht**  
Horizon Bank

**Sonya Smith**  
Wealth in Motion Consulting LLC

**Veronica Simms**  
Everwise Credit Union

# October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**1 in 8 women** in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. **But there is hope.** When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%.



Visit [www.NorthShoreHealth.org](http://www.NorthShoreHealth.org) or call **219-763-8112**

## Healthcare Up & Coming Finalists

**Ashley Michalski**  
Pillars of Wellness

**Ashley Nguyen**  
NorthShore Health Centers

**Cynthia Carter-Spencer**  
Better Tomorrow Counseling LLC

**Delana Orban**  
Franciscan Health

**Elizabeth Georges, FDN-P**  
Vibrant Soul Coaching, LLC

**Enida DeVaney**  
Northwest Health Porter

**Christina Matoski-Timm FNP-C**  
New Beginnings Health Center

**Gervay Dickerson**  
NorthShore Health Centers

**Lauren Hull**  
UChicago Medicine Crown Point

**Lynne Clapman**  
Erie Family Health Centers

**Faye Stokes, D.D.S.**  
Michigan City Dental PC

**Francesca Cooley**  
Epiphany and Company Counseling

**Gina Bachmeier**  
RENEW UMassage, Wellness & Spa

**Kristy Victor**  
Northwest Cancer Centers, PC

**Lauren O'Day**  
Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Network

**Natali Alvarez**  
HealthVisions Midwest Inc.

**Rhea Martin, MSN WHNP-BC**  
Perfection Medical Spa

**Sandra Turner**  
Right at Home Northwest Indiana

**Savannah Smith**  
Brick Road Therapies

**Stephanie Walker**  
Franciscan Health Crown Point

## Influential Finalists

**Cathy Cinko**  
Franciscan Health

**Mary Jo Smith**  
Franciscan Alliance

**Rebecca Briick-Sasak**  
Thrive Healing Center

**Maysha Carlson**  
NorthShore Health Centers

**Melissa DeSutter**  
Right at Home

**Shanon Mekola**  
Alliance MD

**Nila Williams**  
Franciscan Health

**Sheri Bruder**  
Franciscan Health  
Crown Point Screening Clinic

**Noemi Adame**  
Culver Pediatrics Center

**Vivian Jacobs**  
I AM Healed Homecare



## Law Up & Coming Finalists

**Amanda Alasauskas**  
Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP

**TaSheena Cunningham-Rimmer**  
Chicago Housing Authority

## Influential Finalists

**Ingrid Rais**  
Lake County Criminal Probation Department

**Kirsten Kaiser Kus**  
Downey & Lenkov LLC

## Marketing Up & Coming Finalists

**Allison Maciejewski**  
JMA Architects

**Amanda Bookholt**  
Saint Paul Catholic School

**Amy Kowalisyn**  
Amelia Kowalisyn Photography

**Andrea Puentे**  
Belvedere Senior Housing

**Ashley Spargo**  
GreatNews.Life

**Maria Avila**  
Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana

**Claudia Airey**  
NiSource

**Marissa Hurst**  
Marissa Hurst Photography

**Deb Ammerman**  
Small Business Showcase  
Digital Magazine

**Nerissa Cassidy Fezler**  
College of Business  
Purdue University Northwest

**Kaitlin Craig Ferguson**  
Imagehaus Creative

**Shelby Case**  
Diversified Marketing Strategies

## Influential Finalists

**Anita Goodan**  
Kankakee Valley Broadcasting, Inc.

**Jackie Thomas**  
South Shore Public Relations

**Jeni Williams**  
Innsena

**Jenny Craig-Brown**  
GreatNews.Life

**Krystal Kadar Quagliara**  
St. Thomas More Church

**LeeAnn Ashby-Hall**  
Compass Marketing

**Lisa Fronek**  
Generate

**Melissa Bohacek**  
Paladin

**Melissa Huffman**  
Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana

**Stacy Travis**  
Town Planner of NWI

**Susan Thompson**  
Illiana Indoor Billboards

**Ula Davitt**  
BizAtelier.co

## Nonprofit Up & Coming Finalists

**Abby Vogel**  
Giggles Boutique

**Amy Wulf**  
VNA Hospice NWI

**Ari Biaz**  
Lerner & Rowe

**Brenda Stellema**  
La Porte County Juvenile  
Services Center

**Carmen Vincent**  
Project Neighbors

**Dominique Smiley**  
Center of Workforce Innovations

**Gretchen Mercer**  
NWI No Child Hungry

**Illiana Melgoza**  
Big Sister Hour

**Jacque Ryan**  
Starke County Community Foundation

**Jenna Hullett**  
Judah's Blessings Inc.

**Julie West**  
The Play for Jake Foundation

**Kristy Hahn**  
Family Advocates

**Mandy Krickhahn**  
The Collective

**Stacey R. Black**  
Michiana Women Rise

**Tammy Diaferio-Longoria**  
Paying It Forward

**Trisha Drain**  
Newton County  
Community Services, Inc.

**Cindy Cohen RN BS BA**  
C2 Your Health Women's Initiative Inc.

**Cindy Hall, CFRE**  
Ivy Tech Community College

**Corrine Witkowski**  
Regional Care Group

**Dr. R. Beard, RN**  
VicTory 4 Kidz

**Irene Szakonyi**  
The Starke County Youth Club, Inc.

**Jenna Conklin**  
Paladin

## Influential Finalists

**Jennifer Trowbridge**  
CoAction

**Joyce Leon**  
Mental Health America  
of Northwest Indiana

**Kristina Trajkovski**  
Regional Care Group  
Geminus Corporation

**LaTrice L. Edwards**  
Triumphant Transitions Inc.

**Lita Peters**  
Harold Hal Kelley  
Respite Foundation, Inc.

**Mimi Burke**  
Twice Blessed Rett

**Stephanie Anderson**  
Opportunity Enterprises

**Toya Smith**  
Making A Difference & Serving A Purpose

**Valerie McDaniels**  
A Better Way Home

**Vita Ayala**  
Diocese of Joliet

## Real Estate Up & Coming Finalists

### Alexa Hosier

Lisa Grady Team McColly

### Becky Wright

BHGRE Connections

### Courtney Aydt

Better Home and Gardens  
Real Estate Connections

### Elizabeth Velazquez

McColly Real Estate  
Womens Council of Realtors

### Ewka Kawecki

Top Team Properties

### Krystal Zamora

Listing Leaders Northwest

### Michelle McManus

@properties Christie's International  
Real Estate

### Rebeca Cierniak

Listing Leaders Northwest

### Alison Rentschler

Re/Max Country Wide 1st

## Influential Finalists

### Jennifer Miga

McColly Real Estate

### Micky Gallas

@properties Christie's  
International Real Estate

## Service & Tourism Up & Coming Finalists

### Ann Cain

Bedarra Bar

### Charlotte Shaia

Elwood Staffing

### Colleen Cary

Luke Family Of Brands  
County Line Orchard & Lakeside  
Pavillion Event Venue

### Hannah Cohen

Luke Oil

### Jaime Keller-Falls

Avalon Manor Banquet Center

### Kayla Harmon

Luke Family Of Brands  
County Line Orchard & Lakeside  
Pavillion Event Venue

### Kelli Stair

Mosquito Joe of South Bend

### Laura Quiroga

Gateway Triangle Corp

### Mary Kay Emmrich

Crossroads CASA / Gypsy Cataloguing /  
Sincerely Yours Estate & Tag Sales

### Traci Grant

County Line Orchard

### Amy McCarthy

White Lodging

### Angela Gaghan, CMP

Blue Chip Casino Hotel & Spa

### Emme Wawrzynski

Luke Family of Brands

## Influential Finalists

### Georgia Manous-Gessler

Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana

### Johanna Welter

Journeymen Distillery

### Natalie Paton

Luke Oil

### Rebekah Gizynski

Good Hospitality

### Sara Flores

Briar Ridge Country Club

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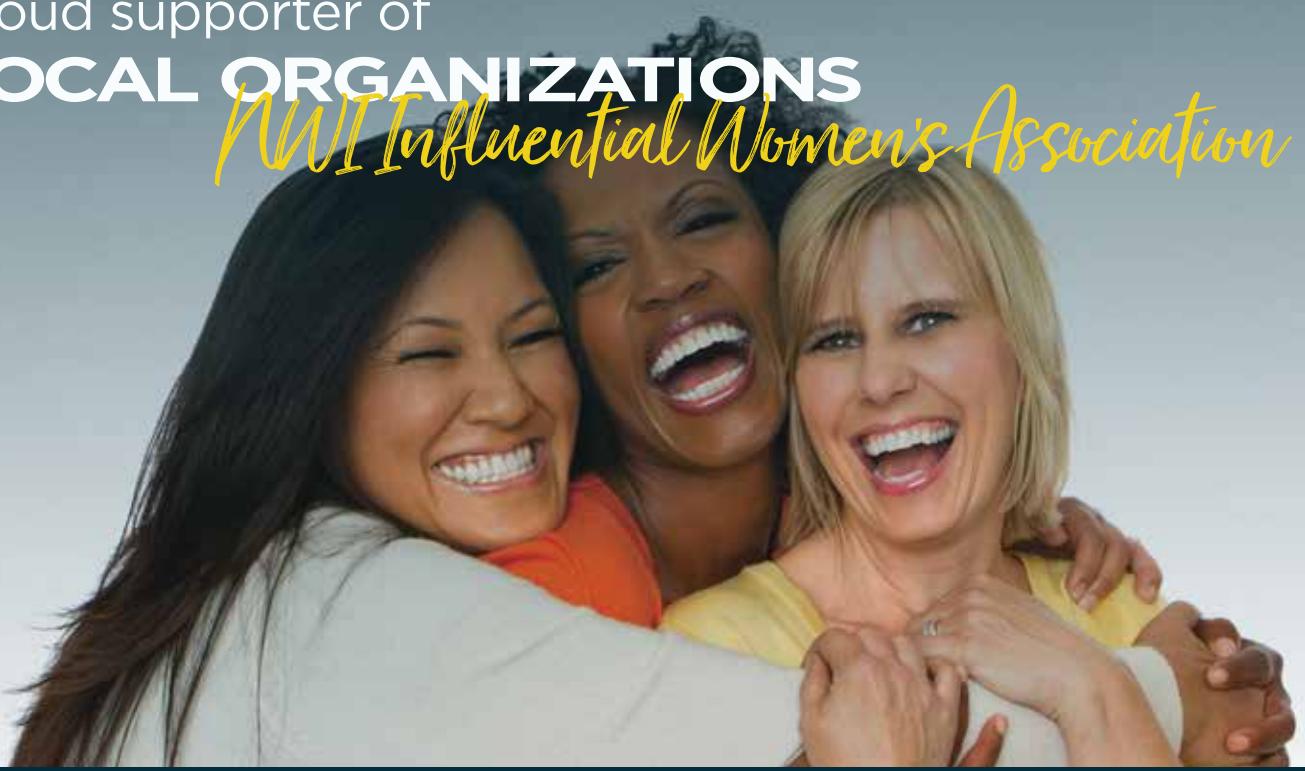
Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa  
Michigan City, IN



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*NWI Influential Women's Association*



Learn more at  
[NIPSCO.com](http://NIPSCO.com) and  
[NiSource.com](http://NiSource.com)

**NiSource**

**NIPSCO**

## STEM Up & Coming Finalists

**Gelena Jones**  
St. Mary Medical Center

**Jessica Renslow**  
Nexus Strategy and Implementation

**Laura Sigward**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Whitney Perkins**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Stephanie Weisman**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Glory Gutierrez**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Julie Peller**  
Valparaiso University

**Kim Roller (Dray)**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Halle Brooks**  
bp Whiting Refinery

**Kim Cooks**  
NiSource

## Influential Finalists

*Congratulations  
to All Nominees  
and Winners!*



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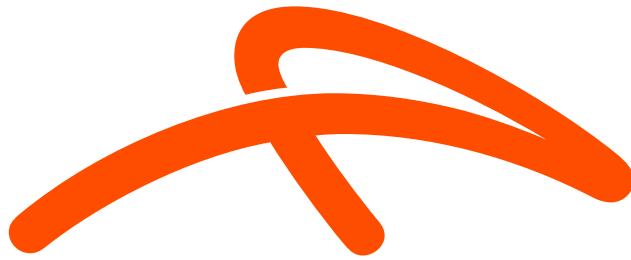
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Amanda.McKenzie@fcmhomeloans.com

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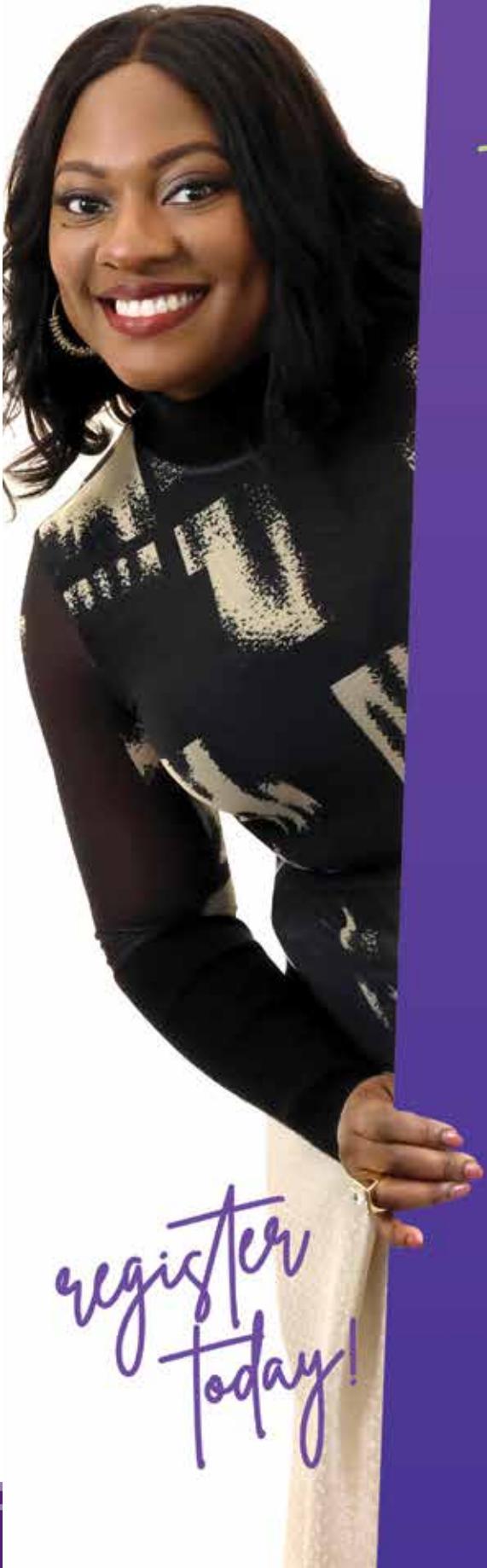


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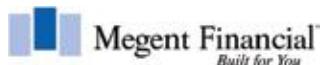
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**TESTIMONIAL**

“Streetfront Real Estate, and in particular Ryan Peters, were instrumental in helping Levy & Dubovich find a new home for our well-established and growing law firm. Ryan's patience and persistence resulted in us relocating to the perfect location in beautiful downtown Valparaiso, enabling us to better serve our clients and our community.”

Reva J. Hill - Levy & Dubovich



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Ryan Peters  
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Micky Gallas Group | Tradewinds | Thrive Healing Center



## SAFETY – QUALITY – EFFICIENCY

We have a new Fluor office in Whiting to better serve the NW Indiana Community! This allows us to better serve your needs as the One-Stop-Shop Site Solutions team. We have established long-standing relationships with the local workforce. Through those relationships we can provide the full suite of services as required for your client site to ensure demand efficiency.

We design fit-for-purpose, proactive solutions applying a reliability-centered approach to include our suite of site-based services, including reliability, maintenance, capital project execution, sustainability efforts, and subject matter experts. We also consider this approach to be the reason our TCIR and DART results are truly industrial benchmark standards.

With multiple NWIBRT nominations and awards for *Contractor of the Year*, *Contractor Excellence*, and *Craftsperson of the Year* under our belt, we feel like we have the right team in place to deliver a solution that fits your needs. Our experts are ready when you are.

Our goal for the Whiting office is to partner with our clients on sustaining and improving their plant operations. Our shop address is 2109 Calumet Avenue, Whiting, Indiana 46394. Also feel free to email us at [plantfacilitieservices@fluor.com](mailto:plantfacilitieservices@fluor.com).

*Let Fluor show you what reliability-centered maintenance could look like in your facility.*

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# Celebrate Connect Continue

- Program
- Finalists
- Upcoming Events and Tonight's Moments



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## ON BEHALF OF OUR FINALIST

Tiff Arcella | Chief Sales Officer  
Finalist - Influential Women Business

# Congratulations to All the Finalists



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## UPCOMING EVENTS TUES, OCT 21ST

Network & Chill | Revolution Fitness  
Crown Point, IN

## FRI, OCT 31ST

Business & Economic Outlook

## WED, NOV 12TH

Professional Women's Conference  
Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa  
Michigan City, IN



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**Good luck, Stacy Bibian!**

Construction & Manufacturing  
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# Congratulations To Our Nominees

**Natalie Paton**

**Miranda Marquez**

**Hannah Cohen**

**Buffy Van Huis**

**Samantha Wilkins**

**Traci Grant**

**Vanessa Bajda**

**Rhonda Lowe**

**Laura Quiroga**

**Emme Wawrzycki**

**Colleen Cary**

**Katie Agopian**

**Kayla Harmon**

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**Luke Oil**

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Do you know a game-changing woman that's making a difference in her industry or community in Northwest Indiana? Nominate her for an Influential Women award today! It's an outstanding way to recognize her achievements. \*Self-nominations accepted



**TONIGHT'S PICTURES**  
Will be on NWIWA's Facebook Page and [BuildingIndiana.com](http://BuildingIndiana.com) following the event!

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