



For Immediate Release
Contact: Melodie Wade
PR Consultant
YWCA Houston

P 832.498.4265 | melodiesfrancis@yahoo.com

YWCA Houston announces 2016 Honorees for 30th Annual Outstanding Women's Luncheon

Houston, Texas,— Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Houston is "On A Mission to Step Up and Invest in the Next Generation" during its 30th Annual Outstanding Women's Luncheon (OWL), on Wednesday, May 19, 2016 from 11am-1pm at the beautiful Hilton Post Oak Hotel, located at 2001 Post Oak Blvd. [Lily Koppel](#), *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Astronaut Wives* will serve as the keynote speaker.

YWCA Houston prides itself in honoring local women who inspire others to reach new heights of success. During this charitable event, nine women from various fields selected by the Board of Directors and the luncheon committee are recognized for their professional accomplishments and leadership skills beyond the status quo. In addition, one woman receives the legendary Dorothy Height Award for her long-term commitment to the Houston Community and to the empowerment of women and a young woman under the age of 18 receives an Outstanding Youth Award that exemplifies community service and exceptional leadership skills.

This year's event will be historic as the organization unveils two of its newest programs during the luncheon:

YWCA's CENTER FOR WOMEN

Formerly known as Women Independently Living and Developing (W.I.L.D.), YWCA of Houston Center for Women provides nine permanent supportive housing and six emergency housing beds with wrap-around supportive services for chronically homeless young women ages 18-24.

YWCA HOUSTON STEM

A program designed to address the still-evident and significant gender gap in girls' development of interest and skills in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). TechGyrls® is designed for girls, ages 9-14 and will include hands on projects, activities after school and during school breaks. TechTEENS is for young women ages 15-21. The STEM focus remains, but the program is geared toward encouraging girls to achieve higher education, helping them find and pursue careers, and become successful. The

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concentration is on college and career planning, scholarship research, resume writing, job skills, and professionalism.

“Since 1907, YWCA of Houston has embarked on a mission of creating programs specifically designed to enhance the quality of life for women, girls and their families,” said Allison Booker-Brooks, Executive Director of YWCA of Houston. “The Outstanding Women’s Luncheon is a charitable event that helps the organization further its mission and provides an opportunity for us to celebrate the accomplishments of 10 outstanding women whose professional accomplishments and community contributions have enhanced the quality of life for all of us in Houston.”

The honorees for 2016 are: Dr. Ann Barnes, Chief Medical Officer at Legacy Community Health Services (Health Care), Dr. Irene Porcarello, President of Houston Community College-Southeast Campus (Education), Amber Mostyn, Shareholder & Attorney at Mostyn Law Firm (Law/Government), Theresa Roemer, Entrepreneur & Philanthropist (Community Philanthropy), Aimee Woodall, Founder of the Black Sheep Agency (Media), Katie Mehnert, CEO/Founder Pink Petro (Oil/Gas/Energy), Karen Walrond, Photographer, Speaker & Blogger of Award Winning Website (Art), Martha Turner Founder & Chairman Emeritus of Martha Turner Sotheby’s International Realty (Real Estate), and Bradlee Few Speaker, Member of the Oliver Foundation, Founder of Should I Eat This or That? (Youth Award). The Dorothy Height Legacy Award will be presented to U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in honor of her unwavering commitment to Houston community and to the empowerment of women.

A special VIP reception for the award recipients will be held at Lucho’s in Uptown Park, Thursday, March 17 from 5:30p.m-7:00p.m.

Chairs for the Outstanding Women Luncheon are Loretta Cross of Stout Risius Ross (Honorary Chair), and Karen Love of Pannel Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C. (Honorary Co-Chair).

For more information about YWCA Houston Outstanding Women’s Luncheon including sponsorships, donations and details regarding purchasing a table or individual tickets, visit www.ywcahouston.com or call (713) 868-9922.

YWCA Houston is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen our community. We are part of an international movement serving over 2 million in the United States and 25 million worldwide. For comprehensive information about this important work, visit www.ywcahouston.org.

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ywca

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YWCA Houston
6309 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,
Houston, Texas, 77021
P 713.868.9922