



You're my INSPIRATION



Thursday, May 26, 2016
TCU Place
To purchase tickets online
www.ywcasaskatoon.com/women-of-distinction/
For more information
call 306.244.7034 ext. 121



2016 N o m i n e e s

Community Building Award

Recognizes influential community builders whose leadership or volunteerism helps create a community where everyone can thrive.

Co-sponsors: Affinity Credit Union and Concentra Financial



Jebunnesa Chapola

Jebunnesa Chapola is a feminist researcher, cultural performer, community radio host, activist, and volunteer, currently pursuing her PhD in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Jebunnesa has dedicated her life to uplifting ethnic and Indigenous cultures through engaged scholarship, through the arts and within media. Her community involvement includes work with Folkfest, Global Connections Network, Ness Creek Music Festival, CFCR Community Radio, Idle No More, and Saskatchewan Climate Change. In 2015 Jebunnesa was named one of CBC Saskatchewan Future 40. In the short five years she has called Saskatoon home, she has contributed immensely to making it a stronger, more just, and inclusive community.



Heather Fenyes

Heather Fenyes is the past president of the Congregation Agudas Israel Synagogue and a dedicated volunteer leader within Saskatoon's Jewish community and the wider community. She has spoken to hundreds of Saskatoon elementary classrooms about the Holocaust, Judaism and social justice. She has been involved in organizing the longstanding Silver Spoon Dinner every year for over 20 years, and continues to serve on national boards to bridge the local community to global issues, that impact Jewish and non-Jewish communities of Saskatoon. In 2011 Heather co-founded "Think Good. Do Good," an organization that engages the local community through social justice, civics and interfaith efforts.



Jannica Hoskins

Jannica Hoskins is a Métis film maker and educator committed to her cultural roots and ancestry. Jannica discovered her passion for mentorship and teaching while delivering Aboriginal Education arts programs for youth, such as dance, song, acting, and public relations. She worked with partners including Parks Canada, museums, heritage associations and the community. Jannica is the project coordinator for the SheNative Goods Inc. partnership with Her 4 Directions, supporting entrepreneurs in fashion, facilitating workshops, and community engagement. Jannica's community outreach and education leadership continues here in Saskatoon, building bridges to cooperate, elevate, and connect.



Namarta Kochar

Narmarta Kochar is a woman of influence and change-maker. She has helped in various spheres through the province, volunteering for an array of organizations including Dress for Success, Ovarian Cancer Canada, the Arthritis Society, Salvation Army, and the Children's Wish Foundation. She has taken on leadership roles on the Drug Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee. She has been named a Woman of Influence by SaskBusiness magazine, a member of U of S Arts & Science Alumni of Influence, one of CBC's Future 40, and is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the U of S Alumni Achievement Award and the Living in Harmony Award.



Maria Jane Linklater

A well-known, long-standing, and highly regarded cultural leader and mentor in our community, Maria Linklater was born at the Thunderchild First Nation, and raised by her grandmother until the age of seven, when she was forced to attend residential school. Maria has dedicated much of her life to child welfare. She was employed by many social service agencies, and lovingly cared for over 350 foster children, many with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Maria offered each of these children a safe place, loving environment, one that supported pride in their cultural identity.



DeeAnn Mercier

DeeAnn Mercier is the Communications and Public Relations Director at the Lighthouse Supported Living in downtown Saskatoon. DeeAnn heads the fundraising team, has raised over \$4 million for the Lighthouse, and has been an instrumental force in the expansion of services and programs for those experiencing homelessness in our province. DeeAnn also serves her community on the boards of Nuit Blanche Saskatoon, Sum Theatre, and QEXCA Community Association, and is the Co-Chair of National Philanthropy Day. Recently DeeAnn has received much deserved accolades including CBC's Future 40 and the Badge Award from the Saskatoon Police Service.



Nicole Smith

Nicole Smith learned from a young age the importance of giving back to the community. Currently she is an active volunteer with six organizations: Low's In Motion, Parkinson Canada, Dress for Success, Professional Women's Group, Business and Professional Women of Saskatoon, and Young Business Professional Women, and she has previously volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and served as president for the Political Studies and Public Administration Students' Society. Throughout her career, she has been drawn to positions with a focus on diversity and empowerment.



Sandra Stack

Sandra Stack started her career in the hotel business, but later became an advocate and life skills coach for individuals with disabilities. Sandra moved to Saskatoon in 2009, and has been working at the Friendship Inn since that time, first as a social worker, than as executive director. Her passion is for working in the inner city with individuals dealing with poverty. This motivates her to change how people see the inner city. She is compassionate and committed in her relationships with the clients she serves, and often collaborates with other agencies and speaks in the community.



Katelyn Roberts

Katelyn Roberts was raised in Saskatoon, and completed her BSW in 2009 at the University of Regina. She began her career in social work with the Ministry of Social Services in 2009, then working for the Saskatoon Health Region as an HIV case manager in 2011. In 2013, Katelyn co-founded the non-profit Sanctum, with the dream of opening an HIV hospice and transitional care home, and in 2015 became the executive director of what was the first HIV hospice in the province. Also in 2009, Katelyn started Operation Santa, a program providing hampers to families in core neighbourhoods, including toys for children at Christmas. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in public administration at the University of Saskatchewan.



Heather Thiessen

A self-described "ICU frequent flyer," Heather Thiessen has been in and out of the health care system for over 15 years with two chronic conditions: MS and Myasthenia Gravis. Through her negative and positive experiences, she found her voice to become more active in her care. Heather was invited by the Saskatoon Health Region to be part of their Patient and Family Advisory Councils for Neurology, Emergency and Critical Care after speaking at a conference. Now Heather is a strong advocate for the patient's voice and for the importance of patients partnering with health care providers. She uses her experiences to build understanding among healthcare professionals, to break down barriers, to ensure patients are listened to, and to make change for that next patient, ensuring they have an easier journey.



Erica Weber

Sergeant Erica Weber works with the Saskatoon Police Service School Resource Unit. She is a tireless advocate for community partnerships and a shared responsibility for public safety. As a Violence Threat Risk Assessment trainer she has helped train over 300 community members. Erica works with school divisions, community agencies, and partners across the province safer schools and communities. She brings expertise, professionalism and compassion to her work, no matter how challenging the situation. She focuses on prevention and intervention for vulnerable people in high risk situations. Erica was honored with the National Violence Threat Risk Assessment Award in 2015.



Alison Whelan

Alison Whelan is a gifted musician and passionate community member who lives, works and volunteers in the Nutana neighbourhood. Alison manages the Broadway Theatre, a busy member-based Broadway community hub. She is a founding member of Bandswap, raising funds for charities through music, and of Girls Rock Saskatoon, empowering self-identified female, trans, two-spirit and gender non-confirming youth and adults through music creation and performance. Alison serves on the Nutana Community Association Board and the Broadway Business Improvement District and is committed to engaging people of all backgrounds to work together to better the community.



Stacey White

Stacey White works with the Sutton Financial Group providing client service, with over 20 years industry experience. Passionate, enthusiastic, generous, caring and supportive describe Stacey, and with those characteristics, she helps to build our community through her many volunteer commitments. Stacey currently serves on the Family Service Saskatoon Board, as a volunteer coordinator with the Jazz Festival, and as a member of the NSBA Awards and Habitat for Humanity Women's Build. She has previously served on the Board for the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, chaired the "Hearts for Hope" gala, and volunteered with the Children's Hospital "Jeans and Jewels" gala.

Education Award

Recognizes exceptional educators in schools, institutions, or community programs who are role models in their profession and community involvement.

Sponsor: Cameco Corporation



Karen Robinson

Karen Robinson was inspired to wander out of the formal classroom and into the forest in her approach to education. She believes all children need to make meaningful connections to the outdoors in a safe, risk-taking environment. She is owner and director of A Place for Wonder Educational Services, known as KinderCare, and is a part of the extended family at Ecole River Heights School. In her program, she nurtures a love of nature, allows children time to make their own discoveries, and fosters in them a sense of belonging to community and the importance of stewardship and sustainability. Through Forest School Canada, she is training to become a Forest School Practitioner.



Daphne Taras

Dr. Daphne Taras is Dean of the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan, with over 2,270 students enrolled. She is an influential educator and dynamic presenter, and has won international acclaim for her expertise in labour relations. Daphne brought labour-management certification to SK, created the Executive in Residence program at Edwards, provides leadership to the Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurship, and hosts the annual Women of Influence event at the college. She holds a BA (Hons) from York University and an MA from Duke University, both in political science; an MBA in new ventures and entrepreneurship, and a PhD in labour relations from the University of Calgary; and an LLM in Labour and Employment Law from Osgoode Hall. In 2012, she was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.



Nancy Van Styvendale

Dr. Nancy Van Styvendale teaches and researches in the field of Indigenous North American literatures. She is interested in the intersection of literary study and community engagement and is involved in a number of collaborative, community-based teaching and research projects. The first of these is "Inspired Minds," a creative writing program at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, in collaboration with the jail's Aboriginal Cultural Coordinator. The second is "Wahkohtowin" meaning "kinship" in Cree, a research project involving colleagues in Indigenous Studies, Law, Oskayak High School, and St8Up (an organization for exited gang members). She has received several university awards for teaching excellence, and for community-engaged teaching.

Health & Wellness Award

Recognizes exceptional work in health and wellness, improving the physical, emotional, social, or spiritual health of individuals in our community.

Sponsor: Aurora Reproductive Care



Farrah Dzik

Farrah Dzik started CrossFit eight years ago and has achieved her levels one and two CrossFit coach certification, level 1 CrossFit kids' certification and also has her gymnastics certification. Farrah coaches both children and adults at CrossFit Brio in Saskatoon and also travels to schools to bring programming to gym classes to school age children and their teachers. She provides training for numerous sports teams as well. Farrah also has two years at the University of Saskatchewan in Arts and Science, nuclear medicine technology at SAIT in Calgary and Certified Personal Trainer with the American College of Sports Medicine.



Leah Ferguson

Dr. Leah Ferguson, Assistant Professor in the College of Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan, is a sport, health, and exercise psychology researcher with a primary focus on young women's physical activity and psychological well-being. Leah's research, which is provincially- and nationally-funded, explores female athletes' sport experiences and aims to identify resources to facilitate psychological flourishing in sport for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal female athletes. Leah is also part of a national research team implementing a relationship-based Aboriginal youth mentorship program premised on delivering physical activity, healthy eating, and communal relationship building in Aboriginal communities.



Erin Wasson

Erin Wasson is the first veterinary social worker in Canada, and she continues to break new ground with services for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She identified a need for veterinary social work services during her practicum, especially services focused on large animal clients, who can face hardships and lack of urban resources. Her farm background enabled her to gain rapport with livestock producers to provide social work services while veterinarians care for the animals. She provides support for clinicians as they deal with very difficult situations of animal abuse, neglect or euthanasia, helping them manage a high stress, demanding profession, and she provides programming in mental health first aid for faculty and students.



Kalli Youngstrom

Kalli Youngstrom is an International Federation of Body Building and Wrestling (IFBB) professional. She grew up in Elrose, SK and had an outstanding amateur wrestling career, as provincial champion and national medalist. She broke down the gender barrier in the sport, and inspired younger girls to enter the sport and excel. After earning her BA in psychology and BComm in marketing from the University of Saskatchewan in 2014, she started her well known fitness consulting business KY Fitness and Nutrition Consulting in the same year. Kalli achieved an unprecedented feat in 2015 by becoming the youngest IFBB figure pro and North American amateur figure champion in Saskatchewan history, winning the IFBB North American Championships in Pittsburgh, PA, at 24 years of age.