ywca
Northwestern Illinois

YWCA Leader Luncheon XLVII:
Women of Achievement

2027 Leader Luncheon: Women of Achievement Awards

YWCA Northwestern Illinois is accepting nominations for outstanding leaders who exemplify the mission of the YWCA: promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Leader Luncheon XLVII: Women of Achievement will serve to honor six individuals who strive to make a difference in their community.

Award Categories

Business: Includes women in the business and non-profit sectors who make a significant contribution in their field.

Community Leadership: Includes women who are professionals and volunteers in government, public service, politics, and community action.

Mentorship: Given to a **male or female**, whose mentoring relationship(s) has had a major impact on the personal and professional development of women and has fostered excellence. The purpose of the award is to honor an individual who has taught, guided, and inspired women in ways that have changed their lives.

Professions: Includes women in the fields of medicine, law, education, science, engineering, architecture or other fields which require professional accreditation in order to perform work in that field.

Promise: Given to reaffirm our commitment to young women and their importance to the future of the YWCA and our mission. The nominee must be a young woman between the ages of 18 and 35. The award is given to an individual with sufficient community service and professional success to indicate her potential for extraordinary leadership and service.

Racial Justice Award: Includes women or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to promoting racial justice and have worked toward the elimination of racism. The Racial Justice honoree must demonstrate a commitment to racial equality and the advocacy of fundamental rights for all races.

ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

All nominees:

- Must work in the YWCA service areas of Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, or JoDaviess counties;
- Must serve as an outstanding role model for women and girls;
- Must embody excellence in their field of endeavor;
- Must demonstrate a commitment to the YWCA mission of promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility criteria or the award categories, please email YWCA Northwestern Illinois: funddevelopment@ywcanwil.org.

PLEASE NOTE

- We DO NOT notify your nominee that they have been nominated. You must invite them to the luncheon. The award is a surprise and recipients are announced at the luncheon.
- You must purchase your nominee's ticket, or ensure that they have a seat at a purchased table.
- You must answer all questions on the nomination form and submit a one-page letter of support.
- No handwritten nominations will be accepted.
- You may purchase a business card sized (or larger) ad in support of your nominee in our program book. Please email funddevelopment@ywcanwil.org if you would like more information.

YWCA Leader Luncheon XLVII: Women of Achievement

LEADER LUNCHEON AWARD NOMINATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS. PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE EACH STEP.

1. Fill out completely and return the form at the bottom of this page with your nomination.
2. Once you have submitted the nomination form, you will receive a link and a code to purchase a ticket for your nominee ($40). **Please note: nominations are not considered complete until your nominee's ticket has been purchased.**
3. Include a **one-page letter of support from someone other than nominator**. ***Resumes do not qualify.***
4. **Answer all questions and applicable descriptions listed below.** Additional comments should be reserved for the letter of support, please. Number your responses according to corresponding question numbers. Your total response should be no more than two single-spaced pages.

Prior nominees *are* eligible for re-nomination.
The following are ineligible for nomination: current members of the YWCA Board of Directors, YWCA staff members, and winners within the last five years (List for reference: https://www.ywcanwil.org/women-of-achievement-awards/).

Criteria (Please limit your nomination to **two pages,** single-spaced.)

All Nominees:

1. Provide an overview/highlights of this candidate and their achievements - what makes them stand out for this award (100-word limit. May be used for program bio or award introduction).
2. In what ways does your nominee demonstrate leadership skills?
3. What are the nominee's accomplishments, both within the nomination category and in other areas? (For example: affiliations, awards, publications, meritorious performances; as well as academic, professional, elected, or appointed offices, etc.)
4. How has this nominee influenced the lives of others, particularly women, girls, and families?
5. How does the nominee mirror the mission of the YWCA?

Only Promise Award Nominees: In addition to the required information, also describe the nominee's leadership potential, vision for the future, and significant achievements toward that vision.

Only Racial Justice Award Nominees: In addition to the required information, also describe the nominee's outstanding achievements and contributions toward racial justice and the elimination of racism. Nominee must demonstrate a commitment to racial equality and the advocacy of fundamental rights for all races.

Name of Nominee | Title (if appropriate) | Nominee Email Address (please print clearly)

Nominee Address, City, State | Zip | Business Phone | Home Phone | Age – *Promise Award Only*

Please check the appropriate category. *The Selection Committee reserves the right to reclassify nominees to other categories*.

☐ **Business** ☐ **Community Leadership** ☐ **Professions**
☐ **Promise Award** ☐ **Racial Justice** ☐ **Mentorship**

Submitted By (Company, Organizaiton, or Individual) | Contact Person | Phone

Address, City, State | Zip | Email Address | Date

Nominations must be received by mail, email or in person by **end of day, January 15, 2027** at the following address:
YWCA - Leader Luncheon Nominations, 4990 East State St., Rockford, IL 61108; or **funddevelopment@ywcanwil.org.**