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Ohio Chamber Presents 2024 Women in Business Awards



COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce presented its first Women in Business Awards to three Ohio business leaders at its annual Women in Business Summit on Tuesday.

The 2024 Women in Business Summit was held at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. The event was structured around networking and empowerment of female executives and rising leaders in Ohio's business community.

The Chamber introduced the three new awards this year to recognize women who have made a great impact within their businesses and on their communities. The honors included the Community Builder Award, which was presented to Jane Cavarozzi of Dirty Girl Coffee LLC; the CEO of the Year Award, which was presented to Jenny Saunders of FCBank; and the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented posthumously to Sandra Harbrecht Ratchford of Paul Werth Associates.

“We were thrilled to honor three inspiring women with this year’s new Women in Business Awards,” said Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers. “We thought this event was a fitting opportunity to acknowledge their work to make their communities, and Ohio as a whole, a better place.”

The Community Builder Award was presented to Jane Cavarozzi, Founder of Dirty Girl Coffee LLC. Jane founded Dirty Girl Coffee with a mission to promote women’s economic progress in Ohio’s Appalachia. Dirty Girl Coffee is a local coffee roasting operation and producer of packaged coffee products and cold brewed coffee beverages.

Jane believes that when women thrive, communities thrive. She feels that with strategies that create skill building opportunities, small business support, community engagement and equity, the economic standing of our most vulnerable community members can be improved, elevating communities.

Through her work as Board Chair of the Ohio’s Women’s Coalition, President of Glouster Revitalization Organization and Board Member of the Athens County Foundation, Jane works on a multitude of projects that have a net effect of community revitalization, development of venues for small business, creation of skill building opportunities and efforts to facilitate small business growth and increased employment.

The CEO of the Year Award was presented to Jenny Saunders, President of FCBank. A native of St. Mary’s, Ohio, Jenny brings 40 years of community banking experience to FCBank. She has maintained a customer-centric approach to banking and has recognized the need to differentiate from the competition with higher-level service, properly matched solutions and community involvement.

Under Jenny’s leadership, FCBank has been recognized as a three-time winner of the Corporate Citizenship Award and has been named a Vanguard honoree by Columbus Business First. The Bank was awarded the prestigious Better Business Bureau’s Torch Award for Ethics in 2020 and was named the 2022 Best Community Bank in City Scene’s 2022 Best of the ‘Bus.

As a female leader in the financial services industry, Jenny understands the importance of providing opportunities for the next generation of women in her industry.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented posthumously to Sandra Harbrecht Ratchford, who served as President & CEO of Paul Werth Associates. The award was accepted by current Paul Werth President & CEO and Sandra’s niece, Julie Granillo.

A former special education teacher at Worthington City Schools, Sandra joined her father's growing public relations firm Paul Werth Associates in 1983 after earning her MBA and Master of Education from Ohio State University.

She began to cultivate important relationships that would serve her well in the years to come, including connections with three female owners of nationally known firms who became mentors and friends. With the help of supportive business leaders, she also learned to navigate Columbus's male-dominated networks and establish herself as a capable and thoughtful strategist in her own right. Upon Paul's retirement in 1986, Sandy became president and – even he acknowledged – quickly led the firm beyond where he had dreamed it could go.

Throughout her career, Sandy was a sought-after counselor to executives from every type of organization and industry. She served as a sounding board for new ideas, a trusted advocate for clients both on and off the clock, and as a calm and rational mind during times of crisis. She believed that reputation was the most important asset any organization or individual could possess, and she lived and worked accordingly. Although she had personal views on a range of issues, she was deliberately apolitical in her professional life. This, she believed – and proved time and again – allowed her to do impactful work on important community issues such as education, environment and health that affected everybody regardless of party affiliation.

Sandra passed away on June 18, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer.

The Ohio Chamber commends these three women for their service to Ohio's business community and looks forward to honoring three more leaders at next year's Women in Business Summit.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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