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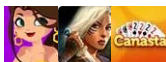
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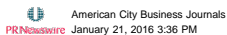


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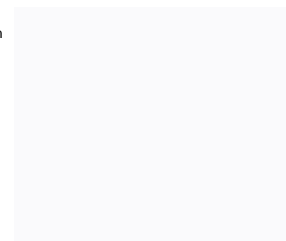
Fifty influential women to be honored during the event



CHICAGO, Jan. 21, 2016 /PRNewswire-iReach/ -- Today, the Chicago Business Journal celebrates the 2016 Women of Influence, an inaugural program which honors women business leaders in the Chicago area who innovate, succeed and "pay it forward," who stand out both for their achievements in the marketplace as well as their commitment to community and mentoring. Women of Influence is part of a national effort by [American City Business Journals](#) (ACBJ), the nation's largest publisher of local business news and information, to identify and celebrate women business leaders and to foster business environments that will create even more successful women in the future.

"ACBJ understands the vital role women play in the business landscape and we are dedicated to their success by highlighting trends, sharing insight and providing content that matters most to them through our Bizwomen site," said Whitney Shaw, president & CEO of ACBJ. "ACBJ, Bizwomen and our local Chicago Business Journal are excited to recognize these outstanding women and celebrate their unwavering commitment to advancing women in business. They are utilizing their industry expertise and passion for success to foster better business climates and strengthen their communities, while inspiring other women to achieve."

The awards luncheon will be held at the Ritz Carlton Chicago located at 160 East Pearson Street at Water Tower Place, from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. The luncheon will feature a panel discussion that will focus on how these women can pay it forward and the importance of mentors and mentoring. The panelists include Mary Johnson, Editor of Bizwomen; Denise Barreto, Founder and Relationship Revolutionist, Relationships Matter Now LLC; Colette Buscemi, Director of Operations, Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII); Selena Gray,



Director of Entrepreneurship, Los Angeles Urban League; Mayra Khan, Director, Nova Driving School and Kelly Stickel, Founder and CEO, Remodista.

The honorees are:

- Denise Barreto, founder and relationship revolutionist, Relationships Matter Now LLC
- Marilyn Bird, district president, Robert Half
- Colette Buscemi, director of operations, Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII)
- Patricia Cain, partner, Neal, Garber & Eisenberg LLP
- Amy Cheng, partner, Cheng Cohen LLC
- Elizabeth Colón, president and founder, Metaphrasis Language & Cultural Solutions LLC
- Vicky Dinges, senior vice president, corporate relations, Allstate
- Teri Dreher, RN, founder, chief advocate and president, North Shore Patient Advocates LLC
- Connie K. Duckworth, founder and CEO, Arzu Studio Hope
- Stacey Empson, partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Michelle Ernsdorff, founder, Compass to Care
- Sara Fix, co-owner, Endure It!
- Selena Gray, director of entrepreneurship, Los Angeles Urban League
- Alison Gutterman, president, Jelmar, LLC
- Dee Hall, executive vice president, FCBX
- Linda Day Harrison, founder, theBrokerList
- Sabrina Hart, executive vice president and regional executive, Midwest, Zurich North America
- Ginnette Harvey, vice president, Specialist Staffing Group
- Noreen Heron, president, Heron Agency
- Maureen Hoersten, chief revenue officer, LaSalle Network
- Christina Immelman, tax partner, WeiserMazars
- Dr. Margo Jacquot, founder and director, The Juniper Center
- Kim Jenson, director, UBS Wealth Management
- Lisa Johnson, EVP and division manager, Wells Fargo Commercial Banking
- Michelle Joseph, CEO, PeopleFoundry
- Mayra Khan, director, Nova Driving School
- Jill Kouri, chief marketing officer, JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle)
- Shermin Kruse, partner, Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP
- Melissa Lagowski, principal, Big Buzz Idea Group
- Sharon Lindstrom, managing director, Protiviti
- Jean McLaren, president, Chicago office, and CMO, MARC USA
- Lisa Milczarek, vice president, private banking, Bank Leumi
- Lisa Mueller, partner, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
- Jenne Myers, CEO, Chicago Cares
- Meredith O'Connor, international director, JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle)
- Kristie Paskvan, CFO, Mesirow Financial
- Maria Socorro Pesqueira, president and CEO, Mujeres Latinas en Accion
- Nichole Pinkard, founder, Digital Youth Network; assoc. professor at DePaul University
- Jean Regan, president, CEO and chairman of the board, Tranzact Technologies Inc.
- Amanda Rigby, principal, forensic service line, KPMG LLP
- Marsha Serlin, founder and CEO, United Scrap Metal
- Laura Ann Spencer, executive vice president, Perma-Seal Basement Systems
- Kelly Stickel, founder and CEO, Remodista
- Maureen Sullivan, managing director, Bank of America
- Helen Sun, author; VP enterprise architecture and cloud computing, Motorola Solutions
- Carmita Vaughn, founder and president, Surge Institute
- Michelle Vondrasek, president, Von Technologies LLC
- Mun Wong, president, VinTech Systems Inc.
- Maria Wynne, CEO, Leadership Greater Chicago
- Lauri Zessar, president, Bienali Promotions LLC

Nominations for this second-time program were sought publicly in the fall and submitted by a variety of sources, including association partners, entrepreneurs, business owners and executives. The honorees were picked by a group of American City Business Journal editors.

About American City Business Journals

For more than three decades, ACBJ has been the nation's largest publisher of local business news and information, deploying more than 600 journalists across 43 major U.S. cities. ACBJ owns 40 business publications online and in print across the country that offer exclusive, in-depth business coverage. In addition, ACBJ owns and operates SportsBusiness Journal, SportsBusiness Daily, SportsBusiness Daily Global, Inside Lacrosse, NASCAR Illustrated and Hemmings Motor News. ACBJ is headquartered in Charlotte, NC and is a division of Advance Publications, Inc., the parent company to Condé Nast Publications and more than 20 daily newspapers throughout the country.

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Lender	APR	Rate	Cost and Fees	Contact
First Internet Bank	3.653%	3.625% at 0.000 pts Mon Jan 25	Est payment: \$1824 Lender fees: \$1399 NMLS ID: 424182	Next 877-754-9397
Citibank, N. A.	4.154%	4.125% at 0.000 pts Mon Jan 25	Est payment: \$1939 Lender fees: \$1380.25 NMLS ID: 412915	Next 877-433-3259
Pentagon Federal Credit Union	3.875%	3.875% at 0.000 pts Mon Jan 25	Est payment: \$1881 Lender fees: \$0	Next

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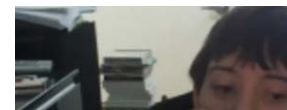
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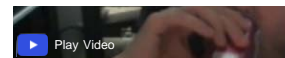
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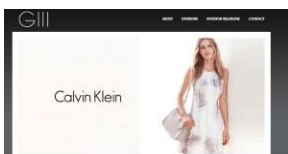


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