



News

Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Office of Public Information
609-265-5028/Fax 609-265-5151
www.co.burlington.nj.us

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Eric Arpert (609) 265-5028

Burlington County Honors Seven Outstanding Women

Awards to Be Presented at March 27th Banquet

The Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced the seven winners of the Burlington County Advisory Council on Women's *Outstanding Women of Burlington County Awards*.

"The *Outstanding Women Awards* highlight the great accomplishments of deserving women across Burlington County," said Freeholder Director Leah Arter. "We are proud of all the winners and wish them the best in their continuing efforts to serve the community."

The winners have been chosen from several areas of exceptional service in addition to two student scholarship awards. They will be honored at a banquet on Thursday, March 27th at The Merion Caterers in Cinnaminson. The banquet provides a forum to explore and learn more about the often-unpublicized activities of the award winners.

Tickets are \$60 and may be obtained by contacting Zahirah Sabir at zsabir@co.burlington.nj.us or by calling (609) 265-3129.

Scheduled to receive awards in the following categories are:

Volunteerism Category Winner: Judith Glick Buckman



Ms. Buckman has a BA in Elementary Education from American University and an MBA in Management and Marketing from Rutgers University. She is currently an employee at Hill International (Mt. Laurel) in the Marketing Department.

In addition to her educational and professional accomplishments, Ms. Buckman is a founding member of the Alice Paul Institute, where she sat on the Executive Board for 10 years, organized the Alice Paul 100th Birthday Celebration and developed The Alice Paul Institute's *Girls Leadership Program*. She has been a member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) for 41 years where she has presented workshops on Leadership Development.

Ms. Buckman has served on the "Running and Winning" committee of the Burlington County League of Women Voters and co-produced "A Conversation on Race in America" at the Burlington County College in collaboration with the Southern Burlington County NAACP, along with a host of other accomplishments and community service initiatives.

Education Category Winner: Antoinette Rath, Ed.D

Dr. Rath is the Superintendent of Mount Laurel Township Schools. She served as Chairperson of the US Department of Education's Advisory Board, is the past president of the Burlington County Chapter of the American Association of School Administrators and is currently the Treasurer at the State level. Dr. Rath has been active in school administration in New Jersey since 1991.

Always being one to give back to her community, Dr. Rath has been influential in helping qualified women achieve key educational leadership positions, such as: principal, assistant principal and administrator.



After discovering the extreme gender inequity regarding female students pursuing degrees in Math and Science, Dr. Rath began to educate and engage the community in an effort to bridge the gap. Her efforts led to the establishing of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program in Grades 5-8. She also established sponsorships and partnerships with Lockheed-Martin and the Sallie Mae Fund; both of whom agreed to not only monetarily contribute but to volunteer in teaching and mentorship capacities as well.

Health Services Category Winner: Karen Harkaway, M.D.



Dr. Harkaway is a practicing Dermatologist. She received her B.S. from Duke University and her M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently she is the Chief of Dermatology for the Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County and a fellow for both the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.

After Hurricane Sandy left much of New Jersey's shoreline in devastation, Dr. Harkaway and several of the women from her dermatologic practice traveled to Atlantic City to aid in clean up and restoration. Also through her medical practice, each year Dr. Harkaway adopts a family in need providing clothes and toys during the holiday season. She has also traveled with her family to Peru to volunteer at an orphanage; teaching her children the value in helping and supporting those in need.

Dr. Harkaway also directly helps women by helping those who have been affected by breast cancer by way of removing radiation tattoos at no cost to the patients. She believes helping a woman feel better about the way she looks and feels is so valuable in raising their self-esteem.

Law Category Winner: Kristen E. Polovoy, Esq.

Ms. Polovoy is a defense litigator and advocate for individuals suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Having been diagnosed with MS thirteen years ago, Kristen became even more motivated to achieve her goals and help educate others about the disease. Ms. Polovoy has a BA from La Salle University and her Law Degree from the University of Notre Dame.

She is currently employed as a litigator for Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads, LLP where she is a member of the Class Action & Technology Practice Group. She is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Class Action Committee and is Chairperson of the Class Action Practice Committee of the Camden County Bar Association.



Ms. Polovoy is often interviewed and asked to provide commentary on current legal issues, most notably the front page of the *New York Times* (August 18, 2012). She is a member of the 2014 Core Program Class of Leadership Philadelphia, which encourages leadership through the enhancement of civic awareness. She was appointed by Governor Chris Christie to serve on the New Jersey Multiple Sclerosis Task Force, and worked tirelessly to pass legislation developing strategies to identify and address unmet needs of those living with MS.

Though Kristen has been diagnosed with what some refer to as a debilitating disease, she is still an avid lap swimmer and gym fanatic.

Social Services Category Winner: Monica Steele-Taylor



Mrs. Steele-Taylor was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and Camden, New Jersey. She is the oldest of five children. She describes herself as a student of "LIFE." She is a wife, mother, grandmother, career woman and a domestic violence advocate.

Her passion and purpose in life is to spread awareness on domestic violence and to promote healthy relationships. She hosts many workshops and activities which work to further promote her message of anti-violence including: "Teen Girls Rock!", "You're Not Alone II: Single Parenting", and the Domestic Violence & Breast Cancer Awareness Event "Beautifully and Wonderfully Made". Also, Ms. Steele participates in back to school drives, handing out Thanksgiving Baskets to women and children, and community workshops.

She has a special interest in Teen Dating Abuse because she was once a victim of abuse and she knows first-hand what it is like to be physically, mentally and emotionally abused. Monica wants the youth to know that there is help and support out there and they are not alone.

Monica's mission includes reaching out to the boys and girls in the community and to express to them that they need to learn to love themselves and respect each other. She believes that as a community we need to build up the self-esteem in our youth and encourage healthy relationships.

Outstanding Student & Scholarship Winner: Devon Hartsough



Devon Hartsough is a senior at Lenape High School. She will be graduating this year and plans on attending Princeton University where she will pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Devon is one of the top students in her school academically and is a member of both the National and French Honor Societies.

Even with a busy school work load, Devon still manages time to give back to her community. She has been volunteering at the Alice Paul Institute since she was in the 3rd Grade. Through her work with the Institute she has spoken on a global girls' empowerment panel in Atlanta, worked on an Equal Rights Amendment panel in Rhode Island and attended an international girls' summit at the United Nations. Devon's promulgation of women's rights has been both

local and far reaching. She also volunteers for a community theatre summer camp, teaching choreography to younger children.

Devon is also the Captain of the Varsity Volleyball team. She is a shining example of what it means to be both outstanding and well rounded.

STEM Student & Scholarship Winner: Rachel Patterson

Rachel Patterson attends Northern Burlington County Regional High School where she ranks #1 in her class and has for the past four years. Rachel will be graduating this year and plans to go on to college; pursuing an education and career in Genetic Counseling; proving that women can be just as influential in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Rachel is a mentor for the Lifetime Information for Everyone/L.I.F.E Program (a part of the NJ Teen Prevention Education Program). She is also the Captain of her school's Marching Band and a Drum Major. She was also selected as a member with honors of the John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth and completed a 3 week residential summer session in Genetics.



Along with her scholastic achievements, Rachel also enjoys dancing and practices ballet. Last year she got the opportunity to perform the role of Clara in the *Nutcracker Sweet*; dancing with professional Ukrainian ballet dancers.

Rachel also received the highest Girl Scouting Award, the Gold Award.