



ATHENA LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nominations Accepted: Sept 1 – Oct 31, 2025

Returned completed application to:

Audrey Whetten Godfrey at awg.rotary@gmail.com

Questions: contact Katie Borders, katie.w.borders@gmail.com

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

The ATHENA Leadership Award celebrates exemplary leadership and is reflective of a quote by Plato: *What is honored in a country will be cultivated there.* Over 8,200 recipients have been honored with the ATHENA Leadership Award since the program's inception in 1982.

Presented to leaders across professional sectors, the ATHENA Leadership Award's rich history, international scope and focus on mentorship distinguish it as one of the most prestigious leadership awards one can receive. The ATHENA has been awarded to 39 distinguished women in Cleveland County since 1985.

THE CRITERIA

Do you know someone that lives and breathes these ATHENA qualities? ATHENA Leadership Award Nominees must meet each of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession
- Provide valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community
- Actively assist women in achieving their full leadership potential

QUALIFICATIONS

- ATHENA Leadership Award Nominees may represent the private, public, or not-for-profit sector.
- Previous ATHENA Leadership Award Recipients are not eligible for nomination, however past nominees may be nominated again.
- There is no minimum or maximum age qualification for nominees.

COMPLETING THE NOMINATION FORM

- Nominations for the ATHENA Leadership Award must be submitted using this nomination form.
- You may include supporting documents (articles, testimonials, etc) with your completed nomination.
- Deadline for submission: October 31, 2025. No late nominations will be accepted.

THE PROCESS

A Selection Committee, made up of a diverse group of community leaders, will review all nominations and select the ATHENA Leadership Award Recipient. The recipient will be announced at the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet in March 2026.

QUESTIONS

Contact: Katie Borders, katie.w.borders@gmail.com

PAST ATHENA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Name	Year Awarded
Pat Ellison	1985
Beverly Shuford	1986
Kay Price	1987
Marietta Floyd	1988
Jeri Horn	1989
Adelaide Craver	1990
Evelyn West	1991
Anne Short	1992
Peggy Paksoy	1993
Kay Young	1994
Alma Watson	1995
Ruby Alexander	1996
Sallie Craig	1997
Suzi Kennedy	1998
Sally Royster	1999
Cindy Cook	2000
Hank Neal	2001
Linda McKnight	2002
Dottie McIntyre	2003
Linda Hopper	2004

Name	Year Awarded
Kitty Hoyle	2005
Janet Berry	2006
Denese Stallings	2007
Kathryn Hamrick	2008
Helen Jeffords	2009
Dotty Leatherwood	2010
Shannon Kennedy	2011
Brownie Plaster	2012
Gail McKillop	2013
Tropzie McCluney	2014
Collette Deviney	2015
Jeanette Sun	2016
Mary Accor	2017
Margie Christopher	2018
Myra McGinnis	2019
Katie Borders	2021
Audrey Whetten Godfrey	2022
Kendalyn Lutz-Craver	2023
Emily Arey	2024

ATHENA Leadership Award Nomination Form



Date _____

NOMINEE (For the Award)

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Company/Organization _____

Title/Position _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Work Phone _____ Business Email _____

NOMINATED BY

Name _____

Title & Organization _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In order that the ATHENA selection committee may have a thorough understanding of the accomplishments of your nominee, it is important to respond to each question on the following pages with as much detail as possible.

ATHENA Leadership Award Nomination Form (page 2 of 5)



I. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Provide specific examples of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession.



II. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

Provide specific examples of how the nominee provides valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community. Include type and length of service in civic and service organizations and initiatives.



III. PERSONAL LEADERSHIP/ MENTORSHIP:

Provide specific examples of how the nominee has actively assisted women in achieving their full leadership potential, and/or demonstrated support for their personal and professional advancement.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO CRITERIA:

Include any additional information you feel is important for consideration of your nominee. Include awards, honors, publications, articles and/or testimonials that demonstrate service to their profession, community, and, most importantly, aspiring and established women leaders. Also if applicable, please include the link or URL to nominee's LinkedIn profile and/or website as well as the names of other organizations in which they are active.