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Women of Legend and Merit Awards Programs

Tennessee State University Women's Center

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2010

### Women of Legend and Merit Awards March 18 2010

Tennessee State University

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WOMEN OF  
*Legends & Merit*  
AWARDS



*Sheraton Music City Hotel  
Nashville, Tennessee  
March 18, 2010*



Save the Date...



Thursday, March 24, 2011

For more information,  
call 615.963.5797



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
3500 JOHN A. MERRITT BOULEVARD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37209-1581

March 18, 2010

Dear Women of Legend and Merit Guests:

It is a distinct pleasure to welcome you tonight as Tennessee State University pays tribute to several distinguished leaders. The honorees for this year's Women of Legend and Merit Awards epitomize excellence. Their contributions in business and the community are nothing short of exceptional and serve as positive examples for our students. Certainly, these ladies are worthy of the title – "Women of Legend and Merit."

To the students who are involved in the program, thank you for contributing your time in order to make tonight a memorable event. Your hard work, commitment and leadership does not go unnoticed. We are proud that you are a product of Tennessee State University!

I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to our special guest, Retired Brigadier General Clara L. Adams-Ender, for devoting your time and talents to this affair. Your positive character, endearing spirit and long list of outstanding accomplishments make you a true hero. You are a role model for our students, our community and our nation. Tennessee State University salutes you!

Let me also take this time to say well done to the 2010 Women of Legend and Merit Awards Committee. Your noble efforts to gain continual support and raise consciousness about the programs, services and resources offered by the TSU Women's Center is immensely appreciated. Further, to my wife, Marcy, thank you for your vision in establishing a Women's Center at Tennessee State University.

Finally, thank you to our Mistress of Ceremony Tonya Dennis, a TSU graduate and former Miss TSU as well as our corporate sponsors, table sponsors, supporters, guests, Women's Center Advisory Board, volunteers and all others who were involved in helping to make this important program possible. Without your support, we could not effectively continue presenting quality community programs like this one which celebrates, empowers, uplifts and encourages excellence through example.

Enjoy your evening!

Sincerely,

Melvin N. Johnson  
President



"A Commitment to Excellence"  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER M/F





March 18, 2010

Dear Honorees, Alumni and Friends,

Good evening, and welcome to the Tennessee State University Women of Legend and Merit Awards program. Tonight, prepare to witness an affair showcasing the unique contributions of women in our society, the talent of TSU's female students and a powerful speaker who will share her infinite wisdom.

We are very proud of what we are accomplishing through the TSU Women's Center. The center has been actively engaged in securing grant funding to support programs designed to empower our young women and to ensure their success through and after their college years. Programs such as College Bound Sisters are exposing middle school girls to college early in hope that we can shape the next generation of leaders. The center has further implemented the First Generation Program assisting female students who are the first to attend college in their families, as well as providing programs that offer an opportunity for students to learn how to better take care of their mental and physical well-being and academic support. So, as you can see, the center is very busy in its efforts to positively impact and transform the lives of young women to ensure their future success.



Tonight's program is packed with examples of great women in leadership. We see this as yet another opportunity for our students, and the community, to get an up close look and experience positive interaction with those who have put TSU's mission of "Think. Work. Serve." into play in their personal and professional lives.

I would like to take this moment to congratulate all of our honorees, our wonderful students for their participation in the program and to our Mistress of Ceremony Tonya Dennis. Thank you to our distinguished speaker, Retired Brigadier General Clara L. Adams-Ender, who has generously shared her insights and encouragement with our students, honorees and guests. I must also thank our sponsors.

And finally, to the entire Women of Legend and Merit Awards Committee, a group of women who with every idea, every need and every task, always rise to the occasion to make this event one the university and community can be very proud of.

Thank you all for your support and for being with us tonight.

With deepest gratitude,

Dr. Marcy D. Johnson  
First Lady and Founder, TSU Women's Center



March 18, 2010

Dear Women of Legend and Merit guests,

*I am woman, hear me roar!*  
*I am strong.*  
*I am invincible.*  
*I am woman.*

These lyrics were made popular by singer Helen Reddy in 1972, and became somewhat of an anthem during the women's female empowerment movement. This era in our history served as an opportunity for women to demonstrate their worthiness beyond just being wives and caretakers, but as relevant contributors to society in an array of diverse capacities.

Fast forward nearly 40 years later, and we can certainly see – without a doubt – the invaluable role that women play in business and the community. Those achievements are evidenced tonight as we celebrate the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of several deserving women – women that Tennessee State University likes to refer to as "Women of Legend and Merit."

Tonight's celebration highlights the talents of our female students, honors distinguished women leaders and recognizes the strength, courage and commitment of our alumni. Indeed, Tennessee State University is blessed to have outstanding women among its midst and, dare I say, the men, too, can benefit from the undeniable energy and power that fills this very room.

Some people might think this is "just another event," but let me assure you that you are a part of something much bigger. By purchasing a ticket and being here tonight, you are making a tremendous difference in positively changing the life of a young woman. While you may never even meet her; know that because of your generosity, your gift will better position her to achieve her dreams of success. And, one day she might stand among you as a "Woman of Legend and Merit" in her own right.

I want to thank all of the students, the honorees, our speaker, our alumni, faculty and staff, our sponsors, Women's Center Board members and the Women of Legend and Merit Committee for supporting this event. Further, I would like to thank President Melvin N. Johnson for believing enough in women to make this a signature event for the university, and to First Lady Dr. Marcy D. Johnson, for being a caring and committed visionary.

As I close, let me leave you with the powerful words of African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist, Sojourner Truth, "If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these together ought to be able to turn it back and get it right side up again."

With each generation, we have an opportunity to "get it right side up again." Thank you for being a part of the solution and being a part of our celebration this evening.

All the best,

K. Dawn Rutledge  
Chairwoman  
2010 Women of Legend and Merit Awards







March 18, 2010

Dear Friends:

We welcome you to the 4th Annual Women of Legend and Merit Awards and thank you for coming and sharing this evening with us. When we started this program, we were unsure if the intended recipients would accept, if we would have an audience, if students could be persuaded to participate or even if we would have a speaker.



Today, we are very proud of the success of this event. As a signature event for Tennessee State University and the Women's Center, we feel we touch not only students, alumni, faculty and staff, but the greater community as well. The Women of Legend and Merit Awards committee worked diligently to establish criteria for the awards process and to insure each honoree was among the best in her field. To date, the committee has been successful in selecting incredible women who have made a lasting impact on the state, region and international stages.

It has been an honor to be associated with this event. As I have retired from TSU, after 35 years of service and moved into the private sector, it remains one of the joys of my profession to continue working with this group to plan and implement a great program.

I know you will enjoy this evening for it highlights the best — the women who have influenced our world and the female students who will take these lessons and move into the bright future they have.

Kindest Regards,

*Cathy Summers*

Cathy Summers  
Community Co-Chair

## TONYA R. DENNIS, ED.D.

*Mistress of Ceremony*

*Principal, John Early Middle School*

Tonya R. Dennis was born in Nashville, Tennessee and earned a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. During the summer of 2009, Dr. Dennis completed a leadership academy in Universal Design Learning at Harvard University.

Dennis has served as an educational specialist, curriculum specialist, and assistant principal. In 2005, she was promoted to principal of John Early Middle School in Nashville.

Dennis has conducted many workshops with educators, parents and students on financial aid, mentoring, cultural diversity, classroom management and peer pressure. She also presently serves as one of two facilitators for the New Members' Discipleship Class and on the Welcome Ministry at Mount Zion Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee.

Dennis was voted by her peers as "Teacher of the Year" in 2003 and has received two "Who's Who" awards and two "Outstanding Young Women of America" awards. She was also elected by her peers as Miss Tennessee State University, 1988-89.

Dennis enjoys reading, bowling and movies.







# Congratulations to our 2010 honorees!

**ATHLETICS**—Ms. Edith McGuire Duvall

**BUSINESS**—Ms. Cordia Harrington

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**—Ms. Joyce Espy Searcy

**EDUCATION**—Ms. Rita S. Geier, Esq.

**GOVERNMENT/POLITICS**—Rep. Lois DeBerry

**LEGAL**—Hon. Angelita Blackshear Dalton

**MEDIA**—Ms. Anne Holt

**SCIENCE/MEDICINE**—Dr. Kelli Turner Molette

**WOMAN OF STRENGTH, COURAGE & COMMITMENT AWARD**

*Ms. Sharon Hurt*

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Brigadier General Clara L. Adams-Ender (Retired)*

**PROGRAMME • 7:00 PM**

*Dr. Tonya Dennis, Mistress of Ceremony*

Greetings & Occasion ..... Ashleigh Taylor  
*Sophomore, Mass Communications, Memphis, TN*

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony ..... Desiree Spain  
*Miss Tennessee State University, 2009-2010  
Senior, Business Administration, Memphis, TN*

*~ Video Presentation ~*

Musical Salute to the 2010 Honorees ..... Leandra Lott  
*Violinist, TSU Music Department*

**Michelle McBride**  
*Violinist, TSU Music Department*

**Evy Laureano**  
*Pianist, TSU Music Department*

Invocation ..... Precious Dian Bond  
*Sophomore, Business Administration & Commercial Music, Pomona, CA*

*~ Dinner ~*

Special Entertainment ..... JaDeCi

**Jasmine Saunders**  
*Freshman, Computer Science, Detroit, MI*

**Dezare' Williams**  
*Freshman, Psychology, Detroit, MI*

**Chelsea Cox**  
*Freshman, Nursing, Detroit, MI*

Circle of Sisters Acknowledgement ..... Ebony Arnett  
*Sophomore, Fashion Design, Atlanta, GA, Pre-Alumni Council*

Introduction of Speaker ..... Shalisa Payne  
*Cadet Corps Senior, Biology, Detroit, MI*

Speaker ..... Clara L. Adams-Ender  
*Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Retired)*

Special Acknowledgments ..... K. Dawn Rutledge  
*2010 Women of Legend & Merit Program Chair*

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award ..... Marcy D. Johnson, Ph.D.  
*Founder, TSU Women's Center*

Closing Remarks ..... President Melvin N. Johnson  
*Tennessee State University*



## EDITH MCGUIRE DUVALL

*Olympian/Entrepreneur*

Edith McGuire became the top sprinter of the 1960's, winning six Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championships and an Olympic gold medal in Tokyo, Japan in 1964. McGuire was also the only American woman ever to hold three AAU titles at different times, in the 100 and 200 meters and the long jump. Born in Rockdale, Georgia, McGuire attended high school in Atlanta, where she proved to be an excellent student and athlete. At the age of 15, McGuire defeated the top prep-school sprinter in Atlanta and was recommended by her coach to attend the summer clinic at Tennessee State University run by the coach of the phenomenal TSU Tigerbelles, Ed Temple.



McGuire attended Coach Temple's camp the summer before her senior year, which helped her to earn a scholarship to TSU for the fall 1961. McGuire, a 1966 graduate of TSU, set a new world record of 23 seconds when she placed first in the 200 meters at the Olympics in Tokyo. She also won a silver medal as part of the 400-meter relay team. McGuire became the second African-American woman to win three medals in the same Olympic Games.

In recognition of her Olympic achievements, McGuire was a top 10 finalist for the Sullivan Award. Established by the AAU in 1930, the Sullivan Award is presented annually to the amateur athlete chosen as doing the most "to advance the cause of sportsmanship." She also came in fourth in the national ballot for "Sportswoman of the Year." She retired from track in 1966 and was subsequently honored by inductions into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (1975), the Track and Field Hall of Fame (1979) and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame (1980). She is also an inductee in the Atlanta Hall of Fame and the HBCU National Alumni Hall of Fame. In 1991, McGuire received the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Anniversary Silver Award in Nashville. After her athletic career, McGuire taught for nine years before her and her husband, Charles T. Duvall, settled in Detroit, Michigan. They later moved to Oakland, California, where they previously owned three McDonald's franchises. McGuire is involved in helping underprivileged children in Oakland as well as Detroit.

## CORDIA HARRINGTON

*President and CEO  
Tennessee Bun Company*

Cordia Harrington is the founder, CEO and president of Tennessee Bun Company. Founded in 1996, Tennessee Bun Company supplies buns to restaurants such as McDonald's, Chili's and Pepperidge Farm. TBC is one of the most highly automated bakeries in the world, producing 1,000 buns per minute and ships to 40 states east of the Rockies and to the Caribbean.

Harrington also opened Nashville Bun Company, a producer of English muffins for McDonald's, Sheetz, Perkins and more, in 1999. She added a Hearth line to NBC in 2005 to supply McDonald's and O'Charley's. In 2005 Harrington purchased the Cold Storage of Nashville freezer facility, and CornerStone Baking Company began production in 2007.

An active member of the community, Harrington is a member of the Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation, Leadership Nashville, Committee of 200, Chi Omega Foundation, the St. Thomas Health Services Fund and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Board. She is very involved with Ronald McDonald House Charities locally and nationally.

Harrington has been nationally recognized in many media outlets. In 2005 she was featured on the CBS Early Show, ABC's Money Matters, NPR's Motley Fool and NBC Nightly News. She was #16 in *FAST Company* magazine's "Fastest Growing Woman-Owned Business" list in 2004 and "Woman Business Owner of the Year" in 2000 (National Association of Women Business Owners). Her companies have received recognition in Nashville's Future 50 since 1999.

In 2007, Harrington was recognized as "Executive of the Year" by the Excellence in Manufacturing Awards, and she was named Chi Omega's "Malinda Jolley Mortin Woman of Achievement." The Bun Companies were named in the 2007 list of the "Top 100 WBEs Impacting Supplier Diversity." In 2007, Nashville Bun Company was honored by a visit from President George W. Bush.

Tennessee Bun Company was listed as one of the fastest-growing privately-held companies in Nashville. Harrington was named "Better Business Ambassador of the Year" in 2008.





## JOYCE ESPY SEARCY

Director of Community Relations  
Belmont University

Joyce Espy Searcy is a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi and is the director of the Office of Community Relations at Belmont University. In this new role, Searcy will continue to help improve the quality of life in the community by facilitating partnerships with neighborhood leadership, community non-profits, schools and government representatives. Searcy is also the immediate past President and CEO of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, where for over 22 years she administered programs for children, youth, adults and seniors for three sites in north, south and downtown Nashville.



A graduate of both Fisk and Vanderbilt Universities, Searcy is the recipient of the prestigious Athena Award for 2008. In Nashville, the Athena Award is considered the highest award recognizing the achievements of professional women. During the summer of 2008, Searcy attended Harvard Business School's "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management" on a full scholarship, and she has also completed Vanderbilt's Owen School's "Finance and Accounting for Executives" training.

Searcy is the current secretary of the Board of Trustees for Leadership Nashville, secretary of the New Level Community Development Corporation, and co-chaired both the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Nashville Chamber Education Report Card committee.

Searcy has just completed a term on the National Board for Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and was the mid-states vice-president for the YWCA of the USA. She has received numerous community recognitions from: the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, ACLU, Nashville Conference of Christian and Jews, Alpha Kappa Alpha Regional "Member of the Year," and was inducted into the Academy for Women of Achievement. The NAACP and 100 Black Men have presented her with their youth awards, and *Nashville Scene* has named her a "Nashville Saint."

Searcy and her husband of 37 years, Attorney Walter Searcy, have two daughters and alas, no grandchildren — yet.

## RITA SANDERS GEIER, ESQ.

Associate to the Chancellor  
University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Rita Sanders Geier is Associate to the Chancellor and Senior Fellow at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she leads efforts to achieve the university's intercultural and diversity goals and to examine and promote solutions to critical public policy issues. She assumed these positions following an extensive career in Federal service, most recently as Executive Counselor to the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (SSA) from 2001 to 2007 and Associate Commissioner and Deputy Associate Commissioner for Hearings and Appeals from 1992 to 2001. Prior to joining SSA, Geier was General Counsel for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a Federal-State economic development partnership from 1988 to 1992. Her experience at ARC was preceded by work for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Division, as a Senior Trial Attorney and Assistant Director for Commercial Litigation, where she specialized in civil prosecution of fraud cases. Before DOJ, Geier directed operations in seven western states and Micronesia as Regional Director for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in Seattle, Washington and later served as Director of LSC's first national research and demonstration initiative, funding projects nationally to improve the quality of legal services for low income people.

Born in Memphis, a daughter of a United Methodist minister, Geier grew up in Nashville, Lebanon and McMinnville, Tennessee, as well as Little Rock and Pine Bluff, Arkansas and graduated from Memphis Melrose High School before entering Fisk University. After earning her master's degree from the University of Chicago, she returned to Tennessee to teach at Tennessee State University. Her experience there convinced her that the state of Tennessee continued to operate a dual and distinctly unequal system of higher education — one for blacks and one for whites. Geier and other faculty and students filed a class action lawsuit in Federal court seeking the eradication of the vestiges of past legal segregation and the creation of a unitary system of higher education to provide greater access and equity for African-Americans throughout the state's colleges and universities. The federal court's order that the state of Tennessee had an affirmative duty to dismantle its dual system became a model for successful challenges to other higher education systems throughout the South.

Geier holds a bachelor's degree from Fisk University, a master's degree from the University of Chicago and a J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University. She is admitted to the Bar in the states of Tennessee and Washington and to practice in numerous federal courts. Geier received the Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award from former President Bill Clinton and is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. She has two adult sons and lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she serves on the board of the Knoxville Area Urban League and enjoys mentoring, traveling, gourmet cooking, painting and visiting with family and friends as often as possible.





## LOIS DEBERRY

*Speaker Pro Tempore, House of Representatives  
Tennessee General Assembly*

Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry is considered by many to be the "highest ranking" female in Tennessee politics today. She is an experienced and accomplished legislator, serving her 17th consecutive term in the Tennessee House of Representatives, where she has attained an impressive list of "firsts". In 1972, Speaker DeBerry became the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives from the city of Memphis and the second African-American woman ever to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly. In 1986, she was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of the Representatives by her peers, becoming the first African-American woman to serve in this influential leadership position. She is currently serving her 11th consecutive term. As Speaker

Pro Tempore, she serves in the absence of the Speaker of the House and is a voting member of all House committees. Her list of "firsts" does not stop there. In 1994, she became the first woman elected to serve as president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, where she represented over 500 legislators in the United States, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

DeBerry currently serves on the following legislative committees: Health and Human Resources, Health Care Facilities, Calendar and Rules, Government Operations, House Ethics, House Rules, Finance Ways & Means, Budget Subcommittee and Children and Youth Joint Committee and Long Term Care. Her tenure in office has been characterized by her devotion to the elderly, children and youth, healthcare, women's issues, education and economic and community development. She continuously strives to be the eyes and ears for children and the elderly statewide.

DeBerry is affiliated with many organizations both nationally and locally. She was appointed to serve on the Southern Regional Education Board, and has served as President of the Board of Directors of Women in Government, a national, bi-partisan organization. In addition, she is the President of the Board of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, Fannie Mae's Tennessee Advisory Council, NAACP, Memphis Chapter of Links and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Speaker DeBerry is also the founder and chairperson of the Annual Legislative Retreat and Training Conference sponsored by the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators.

DeBerry's successful career in public service has earned her numerous awards and accolades, including an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, LeMoyne Owen College.



## ANGELITA BLACKSHEAR DALTON

*Judge, Division III  
Davidson County General Sessions Court*

Angelita Blackshear Dalton is Judge of Division III of the Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee General Sessions Court. Dalton was elected to the bench in August, 2006 and assumed office in September, 2006. As fitting for the first Black woman elected to a judgeship in Nashville, Dalton was sworn in by retired Supreme Court Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr. — the first black judge in Nashville.

As a General Sessions Judge that presides over both criminal and civil cases, Dalton relies heavily on her varied experience in the legal community, which includes positions as an administrative assistant at the Nashville firm of Law Office of Jones and Shockley and a legal intern for Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr. at the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Dalton served in various positions with the Davidson County District Attorney General's Office from 1997 through 2005. In 2000, Dalton was assigned to the domestic violence prosecution team. She served as an assistant district attorney general until 2005 when she decided to run for a retiring judge's vacant seat on the Davidson County General Sessions bench.

Dalton has served on the board of directors for UJIMA House, Incorporated, a shelter for battered women and children focused on serving minority women and their families. She currently serves on the State Coordinating Council for the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Dalton is a member of Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she has served on the board of trustees. She is also a member of the Napier-Looby, Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations, the Lawyers' Association for Women, the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She currently serves on the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary and the board of directors for the Nashville Bar Association. Dalton was selected among lawyers across Tennessee to the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2007.

A native of Nashville, Dalton graduated from Whites Creek High School in 1989. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Lane College in 1993 and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Toledo College of Law in 1997.

Dalton and her husband, Derrick, have one son.





**ANNE HOLT***News Anchor  
News 2, WKRN-TV*

After nearly 30 years of anchoring the news on WKRN-TV News 2, Anne Holt is more than a familiar face, she is a trusted friend.

A three-time Emmy Award-winning journalist and recipient of the coveted George Foster Peabody Award for the investigative documentary "Under the Influence," Holt is recognized by her peers throughout the Mid-South as an outstanding role model.



Holt was one of 13 children born to a family of sharecroppers in west Tennessee. She received her education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and immediately went to work for the local television station, WATE-TV.

Holt moved to Nashville in 1976 and went to work for WKRN-TV, News 2 as a reporter and weekend anchor. In 1980, Holt became primary anchor.

She has received countless awards and honors including the Jerry Thompson Communicator's Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice; the Donald G. Hileman Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Tennessee College of Communications; and the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. With that honor, Holt earned the distinction of being the first woman, the first African-American and the first news anchor to receive the award.

In addition to her anchoring duties at News 2, Holt serves as spokesperson for News 2's "Food to Families" campaign. A sorting room at the Second Harvest Food Bank was named the "Anne Holt Room," reflecting Holt's years of dedication to helping feed hungry families in Middle Tennessee.

Holt was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to serve on the board of trustees for the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, her alma mater. She has served on the board of NCCJ, Book'em, Leadership Nashville, Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts, Middle Tennessee March of Dimes, Inroads/Nashville, Inc., the United Way of Middle Tennessee, the Honorary Leadership Committee for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's Partnership 2000 Project and numerous nonprofit fundraising committees.

Holt is married to Kenneth E. Blackburn, II. The couple has a son, Kyle.

**KELLI A. TURNER MOLETTE, D.D.S., MSPH***Dentist*

Molette is a native of Nashville and a graduate of Meharry Medical College holding a Doctor of Dental Surgery and a Master of Science in Public Health. She has been in private practice for 18 years and enjoys dentistry. She is continuously striving to enhance her practice by staying abreast of the latest technology. She is a certified Invisalign provider and takes pride in providing dental makeovers for her patients.

She and her staff are well-qualified in the dental profession. There is more than 65 years of experience among them. They all participate regularly in continued education courses for assisting patients with their care as well as financial needs.

Molette is a member of several organizations. She is a member of the American Dental Association, Tennessee Dental Association, Nashville Dental Society, where she serves as an alternate delegate and dental liaison lobbyist. Additionally, she is a member of the National Dental Association, Pan Tennessee Dental Association and Capitol City Dental Society, where she is the immediate past secretary, a position she served in for six years. Her service also extends to Tennessee Technical College Dental Technician Advisory Committee.

Molette serves the Nashville-area as a United Way Trustee, as a R.H. Boyd Leadership Society member and Women United in Giving Advisory Board member. She mentors to dental students at the Meharry School of Dentistry as well as pre-dental students at Tennessee State University.

Molette has served on the Downtown YMCA Urban Services Board, CES and Associates' Youth About Business Board and has remained a mentor to students for the past 13 years. She has provided leadership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter as sergeant-at-arms, second vice president and first vice president over the past 21 years. She is also a member of the Nashville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.





## SHARON HURT

*Executive Director*

*Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership, Inc.*

Sharon Hurt is a graduate of Tennessee State University's College of Business. She also pursued a master's degree in public administration at TSU while working and raising her family. Currently, she is a graduate student in the master's program for nonprofit leadership at Belmont University.

Hurt worked at Meharry Medical College for 17 years and was director of admissions and records before being named executive director of the Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership, Inc. (JUMP) to advocate for the historic Jefferson Street business district.



She was recently awarded an \$800,000 Community Enhancement Grant from the state of Tennessee and Metropolitan Nashville for a landscape project for Jefferson Street she initiated in conjunction with former Tennessee Titan Eddie George. She is a 2009 Societas Doctas Civic Award recipient, 2008 recipient of Safeco Insurance's "Community Hero" that included a \$15,000 award. Hurt was a nominee for the 2008 ATHENA Award and recipient of the 2008 Eighteenth Avenue Enrichment Center Angel of Hope Award.

Since joining JUMP, Hurt has initiated an annual jazz and blues festival that in 2001 had 1,500 attendees and this year drew more than 30,000. She also created and implemented the "Bridging the Gap" mixer on Shelby Street Bridge where downtown Nashville meets uptown Jefferson Street. She implemented the "JUMP Senior Shuttle" a service that provides transportation for seniors at local senior resident facilities in the North Nashville community and was the 2003 recipient of the Economic and Community Development Advocate Award for the 29th Annual Legislative Retreat. Hurt chaired the community action plan committee of REACH 2010, is a graduate of the 2004 class of Leadership Nashville and is a member of the Nashville Women's Breakfast Club, Downtown Rotary, National Association of Professional Women, Convention and Visitor's Bureau Membership Advisory Board, Tennessee Women's Democratic Party, the Blue Ridge Institute and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As if that were not enough, Hurt serves on the board of the Comprehensive Care Center, Vanderbilt University's Black Cultural Center and Disciples Village. She is a former board member of the Center for Nonprofit Management and past president of the Association of Nonprofit Executives Council.

Hurt resides in Nashville with her husband, Lovie, and has three daughters.

## CLARA L. ADAMS-ENDER

*Brigadier General*

*U.S. Army, Retired*

Brigadier General Clara L. Adams-Ender was born in Wake County, North Carolina, the fourth oldest of 10 children. She received her bachelor's degree in nursing from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC; a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; and a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. She has been awarded eight honorary doctorate degrees in law, public service, humane letters and science.

Adams-Ender served as chief nurse of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in charge of 22,000 nurses stationed worldwide. She was the first nurse in Army history to be a commanding general of a base — Fort Belvoir, VA. She was the Vice-President for nursing at the prestigious Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the largest health care facility in the Department of Defense and was the first female in the Army to be awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge. Adams-Ender also commanded an army base, where she was responsible for a \$90 million budget while providing quality customer services to 85 different constituent groups.

Adams-Ender is president and chief executive officer of Caring About People with Enthusiasm (CAPE) Associates, Inc., a management consulting firm, specializing in health care management and health care reform, leadership issues, cultural diversity, women in the workplace and conflict management and resolution.

Adams-Ender was named to the Virginia board of Medicine as a Citizen Member in 2005. This appointment carries the responsibility of licensing, providing practitioner information, regulating and disciplining of physicians and other health care professionals in the Commonwealth of Virginia. General Adams-Ender is past Chairman, Board of Directors of the Andrews Federal Credit Union, Charter Member, Board of Visitors, U.S. Marine Corps University and a former member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).

She has received many awards for her community work and service, including the Roy Wilkins Meritorious Service Award from the NAACP, Gertrude E. Rush Award for Leadership from the National Bar Association, Distinguished Service Medal with Oakleaf Cluster and the Regents' Distinguished Graduate Award from the University of Minnesota. In 1996, she was named by *Working Woman* magazine as one of the 350 women who changed the world from 1976 to 1996. Adams-Ender resides in Lake Ridge, Virginia.





## ~ Sponsors ~

### PLATINUM



### SILVER



### BRONZE



## ~ Table Sponsors ~

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Leadership TSU

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College Bound Sisters

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# Previous Honorees



**2007**

Chandra Cheeseborough, Athletics  
Deborah A. Cole, Business  
Andrea Conte, Community Service  
Lillian Dunn Thomas, Education  
Thelma Harper, Government/Politics  
Georgette Peek Dixon, Leadership  
Gwinnett Ladson, Science/Medicine  
Johnnetta B. Cole, Lifetime Achievement

**2008**

Lucinda Williams Adams, Athletics  
Rosetta Miller-Perry, Business  
Patricia A. Pierce, Community Service  
Ivanetta Hughes Davis, Education  
Georganna T. Sinkfield, Government/Politics  
Xernona Clayton, Leadership  
Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Religion  
Valerie Montgomery Rice, Science/Medicine  
Victoria Rowell, Lifetime Achievement

**2009**

Barbara Jones Slater, Athletics  
Pam B. Martin, Business  
Brenda Gilmore, Community Service  
Maxine A. Smith, Education  
Jo Ann North, Government/Politics  
Jerry B. Williams, Leadership  
Carol L. McCoy, Legal  
Yvonne Y. Clark, Science/Medicine  
Annie Kinzer, Woman of Strength, Courage & Commitment  
Glenda Hatchett, Lifetime Achievement



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