2018 Inspire Woman of the Year:

JoAnn Martin

Inside: 2018 Inspire Awards Finalists and Winners

Recognizing women leaders and the impact they are making in our community
MEASURING UP

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In appreciation of UBT’s own Inspire nominees: Stephanie Dinger, Jill Mlinar, and Katie Thompson
The 2018 Inspire – Celebrating Women's Leadership Awards were held on Wednesday, September 12 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. This marked the fourth year for this event, which honored 11 outstanding women who have excelled in their professional lives and emerged as leaders and role models in our community. Awards were presented in the following categories:

- Excellence in Business – Small (100 employees or less)
- Excellence in Business – Large (over 100 employees)
- Excellence in Education
- Excellence in Entrepreneurship
- Founders Award
- Excellence in Government Service
- Excellence in Healthcare
- Excellence in Nonprofit
- Excellence in Philanthropy
- Future Business Leader/Scholarship
- Woman of the Year

The winner for each category, along with the finalists, are highlighted on pages 2-21.

This year over 800 attendees had the opportunity to hear from our keynote speaker, Preeta Bansal, a Lincoln native who has spent the last 35 years at the highest levels of government and business.

The emcee for this year’s event was the ever entertaining T. Marni Vos.
Ameritas Chief Executive Officer JoAnn Martin is a Plainview, Neb., native with business degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Colorado State University. She joined Ameritas in 1984. Martin was inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame in 2015 and in 2014 was named a Nebraska Alumni Association Master. Her record of business leadership and commitment to community service also have been recognized by the Nebraska Society of CPAs and the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. The University of Nebraska has selected her for several awards and she was inducted into the UNL School of Accountancy Hall of Fame in 2004.

Martin is chair-elect of the American Council of Life Insurers and serves on the Lincoln Vision and Prosper Lincoln steering committees. She is a board member of National Research Corp. and board chair of the University of Nebraska Foundation. She also is on the MDRT Foundation honorary board of trustees.

On leadership:

"Great leaders have a personal desire to serve and teach, to listen and learn, to encourage and inspire and to set an example," Martin said. "Leadership means really paying attention to people and empowering them."
AWARD WINNER
Excellence in Business
Small - 100 employees or less

Rachel Henry
Senior Marketing Consultant, UNANIMOUS

Rachel is a senior marketing consultant at UNANIMOUS and works with clients to develop successful marketing and communication strategies. Rachel has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and recently earned her Master of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She also serves on the Board of Directors for VolunteerLinc, Lincoln's partnership for local service and enjoys being involved with the Lincoln community.

Rachel’s philosophy on what it takes to be a great leader is to listen first. Listen, be present, and strive to contribute value with each word that you say. Through her experience and guidance from mentors, Rachel has learned that leadership is not always about finding solutions or giving advice. It is more about taking the time to understand each situation before diving in and trying to create change. For her, being a great leader starts with listening, and understanding that leadership is an ever-evolving process.

FINALISTS
Amy Dickerson
Lancaster Event Center

Amy, who has been described as a “Go Getter,” has led a successful re-launch of the Lancaster Event Center since 2014 with over 300 shows growing and going after new national shows like the National High School Finals Rodeo bringing more than $16 million economic impact to Lancaster County.

Jennifer Strand
Nebraska Title Company

Jennifer Strand is the President and General Counsel of Nebraska Title Company. Jennifer has served on the board of several community organizations including the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools (Inspire Co-Chair and Scholarships & Awards Chair), Lincoln Children’s Zoo (Past President), Friends of Lied, Lincoln Arts Council (Past President), and the Nebraska Chapter of the March of Dimes.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS:

Jan Bretz
JBConnections

Brigadier General Wendy Johnson
Nebraska Air National Guard
You inspire.

Our community is stronger with leaders like you.

Congratulations to all 2018 Inspire Awards finalists and winners!

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Wells Fargo is proud to celebrate Inspire’s honorees.

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Together we’ll go far
AWARD WINNER
Excellence in Business
Large - 100 employees or more

Melissa Newton
Executive VP of Talent and Organizational Strategy,
Olsson Associates

A member of Olsson’s executive team, Melissa Newton focuses on the reason the firm exists: its people. She leads the firm’s business operations, as well as the on-going strategic planning efforts and organizational design. Melissa’s work creates pathways for employees to grow in their careers - and then makes sure people are placed in the right role for their strengths.

“A few years ago, our CEO asked us to define our purpose. When I came up with my ‘why’ I was able to better direct my time into what I felt has the most meaning to me - using my passion and design skills to help others lead a more fulfilling life.”

Outside of Olsson, Melissa is president for CEDARS Home for Children youth services board, president of the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries board, and a board member for ICAN, the Institute for Career Advancement Needs.

FINALSISTS

Kelly Medwick
Firespring
Kelly is a business development professional and a member of the Firespring leadership team. Before that, she was chief of staff for Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and a sales executive for Learfield Communications. Working at Firespring allows Kelly to help both businesses and nonprofits grow and thrive -- work she loves.

Cori Vokoun
Sampson Construction
Cori Vokoun is the vice president of administration and treasurer at Sampson Construction, one of the oldest and largest construction firms in Lincoln. Cori’s leadership in a male dominated industry is impressive. She’s a no nonsense, hard working, smart, driven female who has worked hard to keep Sampson Construction at the top of their game.
AWARD WINNER
Excellence in Education
Patsy Koch Johns
Nebraska State Board of Education

Patsy Koch Johns has been involved in education for over 40 years in Nebraska, as well as Arkansas, Georgia, and Missouri. In 1972, she earned her degree in education from Kearney State College with an emphasis in theatre, English, and speech. She continued her education and earned a Masters Degree from the University of Arkansas with a degree in communications with an emphasis in theatre in 1974. Koch Johns began her teaching career in Nebraska in 1976 at Cozad High School for 24 years until she accepted a position at Lincoln High School in 2000. Alltel awarded her a 2004 Educator Award. In 2006, Koch Johns was named the Nebraska Teacher of the Year, and in 2012 she was honored with the Governor’s Excellence in Arts Education Award. In 2016 she was elected to the Nebraska State School Board.

Patsy Koch Johns truly believes that every child deserves the opportunity to grow and develop his or her own talents. She continues to work diligently to provide those opportunities to Nebraska’s youth.

FINALISTS
Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac
Dawes Middle School

Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac or Ms. “B” as she is known by her students has passion for youth development. Evident through her various roles and involvements both in and out of the education classroom she works tirelessly to empower her students to take pride and ownership in their individual learning. She understands that no two students are alike and believes we must continually challenge ourselves as we do students to find ways to engage and tap into their potential.

Dr. Stacie Ray
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

A faculty member at the University of Nebraska since 2004, Ray also manages the three hearing aid banks in the state of Nebraska – Sertoma, Lions and HearU Nebraska. Her commitment to providing children with accessibility to amplification led her to establish HearU Nebraska 10 years ago, which has provided 688 hearing aids to 407 children 0-18 years old residing in nearly 80 different communities across Nebraska.

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Jen Landis
Pincurl Girls

Continuing to grow and to believe in myself is Jen Landis’ number one goal. That is why she created her business Pincurl Girls. For the past eleven years, she has been inspiring young adult women on how to turn down the volume of their negative voices and focus on believing in themselves.

During the day, Jen serves as Vice President/Creative Director at KidGlov, a local branding, marketing and advertising agency. In addition to managing a team of designers and developing creative solutions for clients, she serves on the senior leadership team that guides the agency.

“I find that being a good leader means mentoring and empowering others by giving them opportunities to contribute and listening to their ideas on ways to solve the problem. It is incredibly satisfying to see young professionals learn and grow by giving them the opportunity to acquire new skills and accomplish their goals.”

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Luann Finke
Finke Gardens & Nursery

Leadership success for her company is grounded in the belief that education inspires change and development. Luann’s professional horticultural career began with graduate studies and positions at UNL in Extension Horticulture, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and Landscape Services. These experiences inspired her and her husband to launch their own company in 1987 to further the mission of creating diverse and sustainable landscapes.

Stephanie Jarrett
Bulu

In 2012, Stephanie co-founded Bulu with her husband, Paul Jarrett. With a team of as many as 140 employees, Bulu launches Private Label Subscription Box programs for partners including Discovery Channel Shark Week, Crayola, GNC, and BuzzFeed. Bulu earned a ranking on Inc. Magazine’s list of the 5000 fastest growing companies in both 2017 and 2018.

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“Greater accomplishment comes when you realize that celebrating success with a team is always better than patting yourself on the back.”

— DeeAnn Wenger, President, Nelnet Business Solutions/FACTS Management Company

Nelnet is proud of DeeAnn Wenger and all of the inspiring women making a difference in our community.

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Celebrating the exceptional women of our community

We are thankful for the women who make our community a better place. You inspire us. We salute your strength and applaud the important work you do.

— From the financial professionals at D.A. Davidson, proudly serving the Lincoln community since 1985.
Ina Bhoopalam
Lincoln Public Schools Girl Empowerment Program

As a young leader and activist, 16-year old Ina Bhoopalam took action when she saw how gender-based stereotyping was having negative effects on the mental health and potential of those around her. In response, she built the LPS Girl Empowerment Program, an organization designed to combat gender-based bullying, build confidence in young girls, and provide youth with the skills to accomplish their dreams in the face of societal opposition. In just a year, her programs have impacted hundreds of Nebraskan youth and earned national and international recognition. She can be seen speaking and hosting workshops for various women's initiatives, meeting with government officials across the US, and traveling the world to work with social justice initiatives.

Her efforts have recently led her to the influential position of a teen advisor to a United Nations Foundation movement where she is using her skills and passion to empower young people at an international level. She ultimately hopes to live in a world where all have equal opportunities regardless of their gender and believes that the only way our world can experience necessary change is if aspiring leaders stand up, speak up, and challenge the status quo.

Jan Bretz
JBConnections

For the past seven years, Jan has served on the vetting committee for TEDxLincoln and has coached speakers for six adult events, a woman’s event, four youth events, a Changing the Way We Eat event, and most recently, inmates at the Nebraska Correctional Facility for Women in York, NE.

Kathy Collingsworth
Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation

Kathy Collingsworth is the Co-Founder/Director of the JCMF Children’s Charities. The Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation was created in 2008 after Kathy and Blake lost their son, Joshua, to drowning in their backyard pool. The foundation’s mission is to educate children and adults worldwide about water safety through drowning prevention campaigns and early childhood water safety training.

We congratulate Megan Johnson for her hard work as our Street Outreach Director for I’ve Got a Name. I’ve Got a Name is committed to eradicating sex trafficking by generating awareness and taking action against it. We encourage collaboration to increase awareness and raise funds with those who align with their mission. Megan’s Street Outreach work with I’ve Got a Name protects vulnerable women in our community, rescues and restores victims by building trusting relationships while providing advocacy and basic needs. Megan has used her enormous talent in a variety of ways that includes speaking at local corrections facilities, visiting local hotels and taking on cases involving sex-trafficking victims. We commend Megan’s dedication and determination.
Brig. Gen. Wendy Johnson became the first woman to lead the Nebraska Air National Guard when she assumed command at weekend ceremonies at National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Lincoln. Johnson, a native of Elba, has made history before as the first female member of the Nebraska Air National Guard to achieve the rank of general officer.

Johnson’s Air Guard career began when she enlisted in 1984 as an administrative clerk with the 155th Combat Support Squadron in Lincoln. She has held a variety of leadership positions and is a veteran of multiple overseas deployments, including an assignment to the U.S. Central Command.

Her gender-breaking rise within the Nebraska Air National Guard is “really just another example of the evolution of the organization that’s been going on for some time,” Johnson said. Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska adjutant general, said Johnson’s prior leadership has helped make the Air Guard a “full-fledged partner in the emergency operations environment.”
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AWARD WINNER
Excellence in Healthcare

Peggy Reisher
Executive Director, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska

Peggy has a master’s degree in social work, from UNO, and is the executive director of the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE). She has over 25 years of experience working and advocating for individuals living with the effects of brain injury. Reisher is a member of Nonprofit Assoc. of the Midlands Nonprofit Executive Institute (NEI) Class 12, US Brain Injury Alliance Communications Chair, Munroe Meyer Institute board member, and was named the Nebraska Social Worker of the year in 2013 by Nebraska Assoc. of Social Workers.

Her philosophy on leadership is that of “servant leadership,” which is defined as leading to serve others. Her work is inspired by the incredible individuals with brain injury and their families who often are invisible, unheard, and underserved in our community. Peggy passionately and tenaciously strives to educate our community about the unique needs of those with brain injury so those with an injury will be seen, heard, and served. She hopes to inspire a willingness in our community to embrace the voice of brain injury.

FINALISTS

Joyce Ebmeier
Tabitha
As Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning, she is responsible for directing the overall planning, monitoring, communication and progress of Tabitha’s business and strategic plans. Over the years, Ms. Ebmeier has served on the LeadingAge Nebraska Board of Directors, Curriculum Review Board of Southeast Community College, Witherbee Neighborhood Association Advisory Board and provided faculty support to NCB Capital Impact as part of the National Green House® Replication Project.

Dr. Jessica Heckman
Family Medicine of Lincoln, Bryan Health

Dr. Jessica Heckman is a family practitioner within the Bryan Health System. Originally from Lincoln, she obtained her bachelor’s degree in German from Vassar College in New York and attended medical school at UNMC. The Lincoln Family Medicine Program provided an amazing opportunity to complete her residency and learn from the surrounding medical community. Most recently, she became a fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians.
In 2007, Khamisa Abdalla began working as a women's program manager for the Asian Community and Cultural Center, but her advocacy for refugee and immigrant families began years ago.

In 1992, in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, Khamisa's family was torn apart when her husband became a target of the local government. He was forced to flee for his life while Khamisa, who was then working as a school teacher was tortured. Eventually, she fled to Egypt with her seven children and sought resettlement in the United States.

In 2000, Khamisa and her children arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska as refugees. With very little knowledge of English and American culture, she began to rebuild a life for herself and her children. Khamisa attended community English classes and received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Human Services from St. Mary's College in Omaha. In 2004, Khamisa's husband was able to rejoin his family in Lincoln.

Today, Khamisa is not only a voice for the Sudanese community, but for all refugee and immigrant families who have arrived to our city. She works tirelessly to ensure that families receive the compassionate guidance and resources necessary to succeed.
Congratulations to all of the nominees for your inspirational leadership!

Khamisa Abdalla*
Anna Alcalde
Patricia Anderson-Sifuentez
Rana Aribi*
Laura Arp
Brenna Anne Backemeyer
Corinne Baier
Alisa Belflower
Ina Bhoopalam*
Nancy Biggs
Jan Bretz*
Jennifer Brinkman
Stephanie Caldwell
Holly Carpenter
Marcie Castillo
Kathy Collingsworth*
Kathleen M. Danek
Sandy Danek
Denise Davidson
Amy Dickerson*
Stephanie Dinger
Pamela Dingman
Pam Dinneen
Erin C. Duggan Pemberton, JD,MS,BSN,ST
Joyce Ebmeier*
Nancy J. Exstrom
Luann Finke*
Azciá Fleming*
Martha Ellen Florence*
Jodi Flynn Rethmeier
Laurie Fraser
Judi gaiashkibos*
Kimberly Goins
Val Greaux
Lori Griggs*
Shannon Harner
Jill Harris
Madaline (Maddie) Haun
Dr. Jessica Heckman*
Rachel Henry*
Kiersten Hill
Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac*
Stephanie Howell
Sara Hoyle
Christina Hoyt
Emma Hulsey
Marcia Hunter
Ann Hunter-Pirtle
Stephanie Jarrett*
Julie Joeckel
Karley Johnson
Megan Johnson*
Stephanie Johnson
Wendy Johnson*
Katherine Jordan Hill
Tamara Kaye
Patsy Koch Johns*
Alyson Kuehn
Michaella Kumke, PCM
Cyndi Lamm
Jen Landis*
Susan Larson Rodenburg*
Katie Lechner
Marti Lee
JoAnn Martin*
Cathy Martinez
Madeleine R. May
Tami Maytum
Natalie McClure
Mary McCombs
Katie McLeese Stephenson
Kelly Medwick*
Rebecca Meinders
Madeleine Rose Miller
Sherry Miller
Amy Mosser
Molly Nance
Melissa Newton*
Melissa “Missy” Noonan
Ruby Northrup
Michelle O’Dea
Emily Olinger
Angela Paolini
Rhonda Peed*
Jessica Petty
Dr. Courtney Phillips
Eva Prettyman
Kimberly Rath
Dr. Stacie Ray*
Linda S. Rediger
Peggy Reisher*
Shelley Sahling-Zart
Sarah Salem
Sally Schmieding
Kelbie Schnieder
Adrienne Schweer
Ingrid Sepahpur
Liz Shea-McCoy*
Jill Smith
Ashley Stewart
Jennifer J. Strand*
Sherri Tafoya
Becky Tegeler
Judy Terwilliger
Katie Thompson
Jayla Toliver*
Christine Troshynski
Deanna Turner
Jayne Ullstrom
Susan Vagts
Jolie Vega
Isabella Villanueva
Cori Vokoun*
Dr. Shannon Wakeley
Addison Wanser
Miranda Watson
Sharon Wherry
Dr. Laura White
Amy Williams
Erin Wirth
Kim Zwiener

*denotes finalists
Rhonda Peed
Sandhills Publishing

Born and raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Rhonda Peed and her husband, Tom, co-founded Sandhills Publishing in Webster City in 1978 before relocating the company to Lincoln in the 1980s.

Over the years, Rhonda has led support for a range of causes, including education at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels and support for military veterans, the elderly, women, children, and families. Supported organizations include: Patriotic Productions, the Food Bank of Lincoln, the YMCA, Catholic Social Services, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University, the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln school systems, the Lincoln Community Playhouse, the Lincoln Children's Museum, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, the People’s City Mission, Friendship Home, and St. Monica’s, among others. Sandhills also fosters a spirit of giving through organized volunteer efforts and a long-standing donation matching program that encourages employees to give to a number of local organizations.

Liz Shea McCoy
Community Activist/Art Educator/Artist

As a supporter of her community and state, Liz’s public-spiritedness, compassion and unselfish mentorship of others enriches the lives of individuals, and builds better organizations, ultimately creating a more caring and beautiful world. Liz is an advocate for children and artists in celebrating the Arts in Nebraska and beyond with consistent excellence in the areas of art exhibition/collaboration/creation, teaching humanitarian efforts and leadership.

Susan Larson Rodenburg
SLR Communications

Susan is driven to make Lincoln a better place and loves being active in the community. She believes great leaders have the ability to inspire teamwork, collaboration and dedication towards a common goal. She is most inspired by leaders who are creative, humble, positive and fun. Susan is grateful for so many opportunities to work with great leaders who share a commitment to make Lincoln a more vibrant community.
“You don’t inspire your teammates by showing them how amazing you are. You inspire them by showing them how amazing they are.”

- Robyn Benincasa

Congratulations!

to Nancy Exstrom, RN

for being a nominee in the Excellence in Healthcare category

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Azciá Fleming
Student, Lincoln High School

Azciá Fleming is a junior at Lincoln High School and will graduate in the year of 2020. She is involved and committed to activities both in school and outside of it. Azciá participates in band as well as band council, a leadership group within band that works to create a positive and constructive environment for her peers to bring success to Lincoln High School’s Band. Azciá also plays fastpitch softball and pitches for both the Links and in the summer for Nebraska Nemesis Gold.

Azciá is also participating in the International Baccalaureate Program at Lincoln High School, is an active member in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Rally and March Planning Committee and has also recently become a member of LPS’s newly formed Communications Diversity Council.

Azciá believes that being a leader entails staying true to one’s values while also being willing to understand the values of others.

What mark will you leave on Lincoln?

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- Simon Sinek

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Congratulation to the 2018 Inspire Award Winners
CHI Health Nebraska Heart would like to recognize and thank all of the female leaders and the impact they are making in our community.

Congratulations to Holly Carpenter for her nomination.

In our community, leaders and the impact they are making to recognize and thank all of the female leaders like Holly Carpenter Nebraska Heart would like to congratulate.

Congratulations
“Our kids do not want to be taught, they want to be moved... focus a little less on figuring out how you will teach them, and a little more on how you will inspire them.”

- Paul Bogush
Meet 2017 Woman of the Year, Barb Bartle and her TeamMate, Carly Grutel.

**CARLY GRUTEL:**
Connectedness is a Clifton StrengthsFinder Theme that we both share. Connectedness is knowing that things happen for a reason and that we are a part of something larger. This truly has been a theme in my life, and it is not a coincidence that it is my number one theme in the CliftonStrengths Assessment.

Barb was put in my life, to not only create change in my life, but to create change in many other lives. We were not paired as TeamMates by chance. There was a beautiful life force behind our match. We were brought together to show each other the way, to use our passions, knowledge and skills to make our mark in our community and to be proud of it.

I am happy to say that my friendship with Barb has inspired me to become a TeamMates mentor. I mentor two young ladies – one who graduated from high school last year, and one who is currently a junior. I am very proud of the strides my TeamMates make to reach their personal, educational and career goals. Watching their resilience and grit impacts my life. I am inspired by being connected as a TeamMate mentee and a TeamMate Mentor.

**BARB BARTLE:**
Carly was only in 5th grade when I met her. She struggled with math and reading. In her own words she says she “tested the limits.” Her teachers requested a TeamMate mentor. Little did I know the impact she would have on my life when I volunteered to be her mentor. She taught me how unfamiliar the pathway to success is for a first generation student.

We learned together. I could see the impact of the resources that helped her and her family. I could share with her my experiences about the importance of college and how to build networks of support. She made tough decisions that took great courage. My role was simply to be there for her.

She was an honor roll student at LHS and held down jobs as soon as she was of age. This pathway to success was unknown to her, but she bravely followed through and doors continued to open and support her along the way. Her grit was rewarded with a UNL diploma in 2012. Today she is a grant coordinator for an education program for parents of youth ages 12 to 20. She is a TeamMate mentor for an LPS student. We see each other at least once a month and continue to talk about career paths, volunteering and the parenting of her two little boys.

From childhood mentee to successful professional woman, she has defined courage, perseverance and hard work. While serving as her mentor to guide her pathway to success, she in turn has been the poster child of influence on my career path. She has been a driving force in my life. Carly Grutel is an inspiration.

To learn how you can make a difference in the life of a young person, go to www.TeamMates.org or call 402-436-1990

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Angela Garbacz

• Owner, Goldenrod Pastries
• Excellence in Entrepreneurship award finalist at the 2017 Inspire – Celebrating Women’s Leadership ceremony

Who has inspired you?
I am always inspired by the energy of someone with a passion. It doesn’t matter what their passion is – but when I listen to their voice change when they talk about that one thing they really love, my heart beats faster. My brain starts moving a mile a minute. I get so excited for them. I try to surround myself with people who are passionate – whether they love photography, working with young people, coloring hair, working with refugees or simply just eating great food. The real power and energy that exudes from these people makes me feel unstoppable. Listening to people talk who have passions in life, and helping them talk through their ideas, helps me think about my own passions in a different way. It makes me want to work harder, innovate more, build something bigger, learn about new things. The more I surround myself and create time to spend with passionate people, the more inspired I feel in my own life and work.

Whom do you hope to inspire?
I hope to inspire young people to stay in Nebraska and to come back here. This is an exciting place to be, and our communities are so supportive of new ideas – our possibilities really are endless. Especially if you are starting a business, Lincoln is an amazing place to be. I know that Goldenrod Pastries has benefited so much by the opportunities provided by Lincoln. Part of my mission with Goldenrod is to spread the word about where I live and to inspire young people to keep investing in this amazing city and state. We are just waiting for your ideas!

What does leadership mean to you?
Before Goldenrod, I always thought that leadership and management were synonymous in a business. I thought that you lead and manage a group of people, help them do their job, end of story. I was totally wrong. Leadership is a really powerful opportunity to create community. In my personal experience at Goldenrod, I really believe it’s your chance to make an environment that is inviting, inclusive and inspiring. Leadership is cultivating the feeling that your team is supported by you, and by each other. Great leaders I have had the pleasure of knowing always lead very democratically. I believe you have to ask questions, learn from each other and make decisions together. We all have something to learn from each other, especially leaders. I recently heard the quote, “If you’re the smartest person in the room, you’re in the wrong room.” I have been thinking about that a lot, especially with regard to leadership. I always have something to learn from my amazing team – I want to be around them, and a part of my business because of who they are and what they bring to the table. You can never stop learning from each other.

What is your favorite quote or motto?
“Find a way to be productive every day.” I have loved a lot of quotes through my life, but this is really all-encompassing to me. Productivity comes from motivation to do better, be better, and to create. Productivity comes in so many different forms, and is measured in a collection of ways across fields. If I can end my day knowing I’ve improved a relationship in my life, had a great conversation with a customer, baked some beautiful cinnamon rolls – then I have been productive.

How would you describe a great day at work?
I love Goldenrod so much that every day is a great day at work! I work with a really amazing group of people, providing by Lincoln. Part of my mission with Goldenrod is to spread the word about where I live and to inspire young people to keep investing in this amazing city and state. We are just waiting for your ideas!

Please see Garbacz, Page L14
Inspired(d)

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JCMF congratulates Kathy Collingsworth
for being nominated for the Founder’s Award.
The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you’re very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind and above all be humble.

– Serena Williams

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the Inspire nominees, including our very own Erin Duggan Pemberton!

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CONGRATULATIONS

To all of the 2018 nominees, finalists, and winners!

Thank you, Lincoln, for the overwhelming support of our women business leaders and their outstanding contributions to our community!

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Each day you define success by making our community a better place to live. Thank you for leading by example and driving positive change in Lincoln.

Congratulations to all 2018 Inspire Award Nominees and Winners.

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CONGRATULATIONS to this year’s winners and thank you to all of the women who contribute to business in Lincoln. You make us proud!

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