Celebrating women’s leadership

2020 Inspire Woman of the Year: Pat Lopez

Inside: 2020 Inspire Awards Nominees, Finalists & Winners

Recognizing women leaders and the impact they are making in our community
Beautiful minds inspire others

CELEBRATING OUR NOMINEES

LEIGHUN BRABEC for Excellence in Business Large
ROMA AMUNDSON for Excellence in Government Service

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About Inspire

The 2020 Inspire: Celebrating Women’s Leadership Awards were held on Wednesday, September 16 at Embassy Suites Lincoln. This was the sixth year for the awards ceremony which was designed to honor outstanding women in 11 different categories. These are women who have excelled in their professional lives and dedicate themselves to making the Lincoln community a wonderful place to call home.

This year, the public submitted over 200 nominations, and the Inspire advisory board narrowed each category down to five finalists. The winners for each category along with the finalists are highlighted on pages 4-19.

The Inspire Awards were given 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

Celebrating women’s leadership

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Pat Lopez
Lancaster County Health Director

A public health practitioner for over 40 years, Ms. Lopez’s passion and excellence for public health in Nebraska is unmatched. Her vision is to promote public health, develop solutions to important social and health issues, and provide prevention services and policies that improve the health of the public.

Pat began her public health career at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) in 1975 as a Public Health Nurse (PHN) I in the Community Health Services Division and moved through the ranks to PHN II, Community Development Coordinator, Assistant Manager, and Manager until her retirement from the Health Department in 2004. In her first 29 years with the Department, Pat’s work included provision of nursing services in homes, schools, and Health Department clinics. She also developed health care programs for Medicaid recipients and the medically underserved, implemented a primary care clinic and a clinic for clients receiving General Assistance, coordinated health stations in underserved areas of Lincoln and Lancaster County, led a highly skilled division of nursing personnel, and was a constant advocate for the most vulnerable populations in our City and County.

Upon retiring from LLCHD, Pat continued to provide leadership in public health and health care. She became the Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN) – Board of Health Executive Director to provide training to the local boards of health in Nebraska. In addition, she was the Project Director for a state infrastructure grant for delivery of Children’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at the state, regional, and local level. She also has provided years of service as the Executive Director of the Friend’s of Public Health advocacy organization for local public health in Nebraska and as a consultant for PHAN to assist Local Health Departments to prepare for national accreditation.

Pat promotes social justice while working with many partners and lists to all concerns and perspectives even when the interests may be competing. Pat was instrumental in the passage of LB692, the bill that created regional public health departments in Nebraska. Her work with the state legislature, community partners, primary care, education, and others made it possible for so many to agree on the importance of establishing a state wide local public health system with the funding from the Master Tobacco Settlement in 2001. The local public health districts cover all 93 counties of the state to assure the public health of all Nebraskans.

In June 2019, Pat came back to LLCHD, initially as the Interim Health Director and now the Health Director. In recent months, Pat’s life has been consumed by leading the City and County through the COVID-19 pandemic. Pat was well prepared to take on this challenge of a lifetime.

Pat is a native Nebraskan. She and her husband Joe have one daughter, Nicole (Neil), and two exceptional grandsons.

Chris Bockmann
Ms. Bockmann is a business leader, an entrepreneur, educator, and service-minded person dedicated to safety and community betterment.

Bockmann Inc. is a trusted company based in Lincoln, NE with a presence in 11 states, offering Asbestos removal, lead-based paint remediation, and mold treatment. As the president of Bockmann Inc. since 1989 Chris Bockmann has cultivated a culture of health-mindedness, and safety leadership. She has demonstrated proven business acumen through the years, achieving $5 million in gross annual sales with her company of 50 employees. In 1987 she founded the Educational Institute, which leverages her expertise in her field to teach best practices and technical training for those seeking development in the indoor environmental industry.

Chris is the trusted authority in her field, she manages her projects and her employees professionally, and she is one of Lincoln’s most understated business owners and professionals. Her company, Bockmann Inc., is the “go to” in Lincoln for hazardous material removal and asbestos abatement. Their services are not the glamorous or high profile part of our business, but the work they do is risky, requires innovation and integrity, and is behind the scenes of virtually every renovation or remodel project in Lincoln.

Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac
With 20 plus years of youth development experience including but not limited to direct programming, evaluation, curriculum development, advocacy, administration and assessment, Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac is a long-standing advocate for youth especially those often marginalized and negatively impacted by the achievement and opportunity gap.

For the last 19 years, Brittney has been active in various aspects of the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Rally and March. She was a planning committee member during junior and high school then transitioning to a mentor role during college and now is currently one of the adult advisors. In this role she supports youth who work to honor the mission of the Rally & March; Promotion of the life and dreams of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Leola Bullock through positive youth action.

Patty Pansing Brooks
District 28 State Senator Patty Pansing Brooks has an established long history of being committed to making life better for those around her, and especially those who struggle, in her local community and statewide. A native of Lincoln, Patty is a partner in her law firm, Brooks Pansing Brooks with her husband Loel Brooks, a wife and mother of three children, who are all active in their communities.

Patty’s volunteer activity over the years has included co-chairing the fundraising effort for millions of dollars for Lincoln’s new Union Plaza on Antelope Parkway, lobbying for a needed $250 million dollar school bond issue, and co-chairing the $9.6 million capital campaign to renovate Nebraska’s Centennial Mall. Patty also has served on a number of community boards, including the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln Parks Foundation, Lincoln Community Foundation, Lincoln Public Schools Foundation, Family Service, and the Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent’s Advisory Committee. Patty is also a member of the Nebraska Children’s Commission, and currently serves on the Bryan Medical Center Board of Trustees.

Patty has a keen reputation for building bipartisan support. She is currently serving her second term.

Dr. Helen Fagan
Dr. Fagan’s work centers on educating people to become culturally competent individuals. It is a work that reveals and changes perceptions of cultural differences and commonalities, thus bringing about principles of trust, respect for diversity, equity, fairness, and social justice. Dr. Fagan has effectively guided hundreds of people on that path as she continues to mentor and lives out the concepts she teaches.

In addition to a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with specialization in Leadership from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Fagan holds multiple certifications in Diversity, Emotional Intelligence, and is a trained Executive Coach. Dr. Fagan’s expertise in developing inclusive leaders, organizations and communities has enabled her to speak is multiple nations and at last count 4 continents. Her book, Becoming Inclusive: A Worthy Pursuit in Leadership will be released in 2021 via Information Age Publishing.
At the University of Nebraska, we’re creating a more inclusive future. We educate Nebraska’s future workforce while championing diversity in the workplace. Diversity expands the mind—and it’s good for the bottom line. For example, Fortune 500 companies with more female board members outperform competitors and do a better job of retaining top female talent. Being inclusive just makes sense.

Here’s to equity—for women and for all.

“As a teen mom, I struggled with the challenges of even being able to consider college, but as time passed I was determined to pursue a career. Nursing provides endless opportunities to make a difference in the world.”

Natalia McCain
RN to BSN, Graduate
University of Nebraska Medical Center

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Aletta McClendon

Zen Salon and Physical Wellness

Aletta McClendon, owner and stylist of Zen Salon and Physical Wellness has gone beyond the chair in serving the Lincoln community. Aletta has partnered with Visionary Youth in helping underprivileged students in the Lincoln community prepare for educational success through the annual Backpack/Haircut Event. Her passion for business and community involvement has also led to the development of The Lincoln Black Chamber of Commerce and Economic development where she will serve as Vice President of the executive board.

Chris Bockmann

Bockmann, Inc.

Chris Bockmann is President of Bockmann Inc. Her firm specializes in commercial environmental abatement. She has worked in the commercial environmental remediation field for over 38 years partnering with Facility Managers all over the Midwest. She has served as past President of Associated Builders and Contractors and dedicates herself currently on the Tabitha Foundation Board.

Carolyn Knaub-Ryba

Knaub & Sons Refuse

Carolyn Knaub-Ryba owned and operated her current business of Knaub & Son Refuse since 1968. While running a company in a male-dominated field, Carolyn has also dedicated herself to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis in honor of her daughter. Carolyn has served on many boards including the Lincoln Symphony Guild, Faith United Church of Christ, and Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company.

Stephanie Chase

Chase the Spirit of Dance

Stephanie Chase is the owner and founder of Chase the Spirit of Dance. As a former Rockette, she has spent the last 23 years teaching the love of dance to students throughout Lincoln, including a program designed for individuals with disabilities called Dancing Beyond Limits. She organizes recitals and events to benefit the Food Bank, People’s City Mission, Cedars Home for Children and Friendship Home.

Christine Weeks

Eleanor Creative

Christine Weeks, CEO of Eleanor Creative, has been leading branding and marketing campaigns throughout Lincoln and the Midwest since 2009. Projects include Bluestem Health (formerly The People’s Health Center), Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, Lighthouse, Inpatient Physician Associates, and Rise Lincoln. During the onset of COVID-19, she also started an online support group called Next Right Thing.
Diane Temme

Diane Temme Stinton is the CAO and co-owner of TMCO, Inc., a contract metal manufacturing company. Diane studied at UNL, in Germany and the United Kingdom and graduated with a PhD in Musicology at Bangor University in North Wales, specializing in Renaissance Music. She moved back to Lincoln to help with the family business in 2015. In 2019, she helped to found the Lincoln Manufacturing Council in conjunction with Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and serves as tri-chair. She volunteers with Teammates, Junior Achievement, and music enrichment at St. Teresa Church and School and serves on numerous community boards. Diane's work at TMCO has been recognized in the creation of innovative employee programs and most recently for starting a company-subsidized early childhood education program.

Leighun Brabec
HOME Real Estate

Leighun became a managing broker at HOME Real Estate in 2015 and was appointed as the Director of Larabee School in 2019. Throughout her real estate career Leighun has been an agent, a leader, an educator and a mentor. Additionally, Leighun volunteers for Meals on Wheels, the People’s City Mission and helps coordinate other realtors to ring bells for the Salvation Army.

Lauren Pugliese
Ameritas Investment

In her role as 2nd Vice President—Real Estate, Lauren manages a large portfolio of commercial real estate investments across the country and oversees corporate facilities and leasing for Ameritas. Lauren has contributed her time and resources to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, the Downtown Lincoln Association, the Lincoln Children’s Museum, United Way Emerging Leaders, and Junior Achievement.

Liz Ring Carlson
Ameritas

Liz Ring Carlson has been in the insurance and financial services industry for over 24 years. At Ameritas, she leads a team that oversees the company’s communication strategies and community relations. Community involvement is a strong priority for Liz as she serves currently on the LPS Superintendents Advisory Council, on the board of advisors to RISE Lincoln, supports Lincoln Littles and Totonga Bomoi.

Cindy Tinkham
Union Bank

Cindy Tinkham has been in banking for over 34 years. As First Vice President of Compliance, she is responsible for the development and coordination of the bank’s compliance management system. Tinkham, who lives to drive positive change and promote civic support, recently had the great privilege of leading a unique team during UBT’s efforts to help small businesses during the pandemic by implementing the Payment Protection Program as funds were being made available.

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

University of Nebraska

Dr. Fagan is a Leadership, Diversity, and Inclusion scholar and practitioner. She is the founder of Global Leadership Group, which provides consulting and leadership coaching to organizations, communities, and executives in the field of Diversity, Inclusion, Cultural Competence and becoming an Inclusive Leader. Since 2018, Fagan has been a faculty member and program lead for the Inclusive Community Leadership Fellows program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with specialization in Leadership from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Fagan holds multiple certifications in Diversity, Emotional Intelligence, and is a trained Executive Coach. Besides her work, Dr. Fagan donates her time to the following community organizations: Clinic with a Heart, YWCA, SCC Adult Basic Advisory Board, Bryan College Diversity Council, Journal Star Diversity Council, The Food Bank of Lincoln and City Impact.

Dr. Susan Fritz

University of Nebraska

Dr. Fritz launched a statewide “Commit to Complete” campaign and established the Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System. Dr. Fritz currently serves as NU’s Executive Vice President and Provost. Dr. Fritz serves as a North Central Higher Learning Commission Consultant Evaluator, Fulbright Senior Specialist Evaluator, and APLU/W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food Systems Leadership Institute Commissioner.

Graciela Caneiro-Livingston

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Graciela Caneiro-Livingston has been Nebraska Wesleyan University’s Provost since 2017. She serves on the Board of Directors of Humanities Nebraska, and on the Advisory Board of the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) of the Council of Independent Colleges. Before coming to Lincoln, she served as Dean of Undergraduate Studies and on the faculty at Clarke University (lowa).

Mar’Lakuttia Overstreet

Lincoln Public Schools

Mar-Lakuittia Overstreet is currently an English Language Learner teacher and Team Leader at Lincoln North Star High School. She has a passion to help others and encourage youth to have a voice which she does through her work with the NAACP Lincoln Youth Council, NAACP Lincoln Adult Branch, I Ask. I Act., YWCA, YMCA, and New Bethel Bibleway Apostolic Temple Church. Currently, she is organizing and on the board of Wild Learning Center; an alternative school.

Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac

Lincoln Public Schools

Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac, M.Ed., is a dynamic educator at Lincoln Public Schools, an active mother, and committed community builder. She is an advisor on the Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Rally and March and serves on both, the Mayor’s Commission On Women which focuses on issues important to women, and Hold Cops Accountable (HCA), an initiative to strengthen the relationship and systemic practices of local law enforcement with communities of color.
Thank You for Inspiring Others.

When you build others up, the world becomes a better place. To all of the confident, talented, awesome women who serve through leadership: Thank you for inspiring others.

Congratulations, to our very own Angela Leddy, along with all the Inspire Award Honorees.

Angela, you INSPIRE us every day with the love, care and compassion you share with the clients you serve. We are proud of and thankful for you!

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Susan Larson Rodenburg
SLR Communications

It is impossible to travel through Lincoln and Lancaster County without experiencing the contributions made by Susan Larson Rodenburg. The owner of SLR Communications, Susan provides consulting services in the areas of public relations, publicity and fundraising for nonprofit companies. She has worked tirelessly with the Lincoln Parks Foundation, the Great Plains Trails Network, Lighthouse, Nebraska Department of Agriculture and many more. Over the past 30 years, she's been involved in raising money for projects such as the MoPac East Trail, Sunken Gardens, Sherman Field, Union Plaza, Nebraska’s Centennial Mall, Woods Tennis Center, and Prairie Corridor.

Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award Winner

Laurie Ann Fraser
Door Step Diner/Event 1550/Country Sliced Ham & Cafe

Laurie Fraser is the owner of Doorstep Diner Catering. Laurie works tirelessly to provide economic development and growth within her community and is proud to employ and take care of people's families. Throughout the pandemic, Laurie and her staff have supplied free meals to the community as a way to help those in need.

Alison Rash
Artist

Alison Rash is an internationally recognized artist who recently moved back to her home state of Nebraska after being diagnosed with cancer. In the early days of the quarantine, she turned to her paints and started The Ripple Project, an art project benefiting charity organizations throughout the country as well as Lincoln including Rabble Mill, Lighthouse, People's City Mission, Black Lives Matter, NAACP, ACLU, Black Girls Code and others.

Angela Garbacz
Goldenrod Pastries

Angela Garbacz is the chef/owner of Goldenrod Pastries in Lincoln, Nebraska - and the author of Perfectly Golden: Adaptable Recipes for Sweet and Simple Treats. Called one of the “most innovative women in food and drink” by Food & Wine, she has been featured in Forbes, Martha Stewart Living, Cherry Bombe, Good Housekeeping, Food Republic, and other outlets.

Linda Stephen
Unfolding Communications

Publicist, artist and author Linda Stephen, founder of Unfolding Communications, has launched hundreds of entrepreneurs, new products, books, speakers, and information campaigns over the past 20 years. She speaks and exhibits her origami landscapes nationally. Stephen is the author and illustrator of the new children's picture book The Day We Went to the Park (Handersen Publishing, Feb. 2020), which features Holmes Lake Park through more than 1,000 origami sculptures.

#InspireLNK
When needs arise in the community, leaders meet them with determination and thoughtfulness. Your leadership not only inspires change, but moves others to get involved and make a difference.

Wells Fargo is proud to celebrate Inspire’s honorees.

Laura Arp
Nebraska Department of Insurance

Laura Arp is the Life and Health Policy Administrator for the Nebraska Department of Insurance. She is in charge of health policy for the Department, including Affordable Care Act implementation and advising the Director of Insurance on federal and state legislative actions. She has also served as a board member for the Houses of Hope and also with the Child Advocacy Center.

Jennifer Brinkman
City of Lincoln

Jennifer Brinkman currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird. Brinkman has spent most of her career working in the state and municipal government sphere in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her public sector professional experience includes elected political office and staff roles in the Nebraska Legislature, Governor’s Office and the Mayor’s Office.

Pamela Dingman
Lancaster County

Pam Dingman became the first woman in Nebraska to be elected county engineer. She is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of design, construction, and maintenance of Lancaster County Engineering’s nearly $30,000,000 budget. Her many awards include the Society of Women Engineers – Entrepreneur Award, American Planning Association Nebraska Chapter – Advancing Diversity and Social Change, University of Nebraska Young Alumni of the Year, and Lincoln Chamber Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Dannette Smith
Nebraska DHHS

Dannette R. Smith was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Nebraska in February of 2019. She brings more than 25 years of executive leadership experience in large, complex organizations to the State. She spearheaded the development of the Department’s fourth annual business plan, which supports Governor Pete Ricketts’ strategic vision.
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Fulfilling Life

Congratulations to the finalists and winners in the 2020 Inspire Awards.

Karen McGivney-Liechti
CHI Birth Center
With 25 years of helping to improve outcomes for mothers and babies, Dr. McGivney-Liechti was integral to the creation of CHI Health Birth Center: The Good Life Birth Place. One of the programs she was able to bring to Nebraska is “Centering Pregnancy” which was created to decrease premature birth and decrease low birth weight. When she’s not chasing perinatal quality or improving women’s health, she enjoys spending time with my children and grandchildren, traveling, hiking, coffee, red wine, and my yellow lab, Marley.

Brittney Keller
Thrive Family Chiropractic
Dr. Brittney Keller is a chiropractor, BIRTHFIT Professional and owner at Thrive Family Chiropractic & Acupuncture. The majority of her practice is women planning to have children, pregnant women, postpartum moms and children from infancy through teens. Dr. Brittney’s care is focused on optimizing nervous system function and preparing the body for a successful birth and healthy baby.

Amber McIntyre
Nebraska Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine
Amber McIntyre has over 12 years experience working in the healthcare industry. Since joining Nebraska Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine in 2014, she has enjoyed working with one of the best teams in healthcare, and is proud to work alongside an all-female administrative team. An avid runner, you will likely find her cheering on fellow runners along the Lincoln trails.

Angela Leddy
Home Care Assistance
As a home health aide for Home Care Assistance, Angela Leddy has discovered her passion, caring for the aging generation in their homes. She appreciates the one-on-one care so that she can make sure that every need is taken care of. Her patient’s families applaud all that she does for clients and love that she incorporates fun into lives that can be lonely and isolated during the pandemic.

Margaret Kontras Sutton
Sutton Dermatology + Aesthetics
Dr. Sutton has had the privilege of practicing dermatology in Lincoln for 36 years at Sutton Dermatology + Aesthetics. Her practice has grown to include two additional dermatologists, six physician assistants, and an excellent team of nurses, medical assistants, technicians and ancillary personnel. Dr. Sutton works tirelessly to educate the public about skin cancer awareness and volunteers as a part of the Lincoln Symphony Foundation.
### Excellence in Nonprofit Award Winner

#### Alynn Sampson
Food Bank of Lincoln

Alynn Sampson is the Community Impact Director for the Food Bank of Lincoln. Alynn provides oversight of all feeding programs for the Food Bank. She is a certified trainer for the Bridges Out of Poverty constructs and trains businesses, organizations, civic groups, and other nonprofit agencies on how to bring economic stability to the community. She currently serves as President Elect for the Board of Directors of Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. Alynn also serves as a Field Instructor for Nebraska Wesleyan University supervising undergraduate social work students in their practicums.

### Excellence in Nonprofit Finalists

#### Reverend Kirstie Engel
First United Methodist

Reverend Kirstie Jeanette Engel serves as the Spiritual Leader of First United Methodist Church Lincoln. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, a Master of Divinity, and she will soon have completed her Doctor of Divinity. Her passion is helping women and children, addressing issues of safety, housing, health care and food insecurity. She has served on several nonprofit boards: Clinic with a Heart, Food Bank of Lincoln and Friendship Home.

#### Becky Gould
Nebraska Appleseed

During her time with Nebraska Appleseed, Becky Gould has successfully litigated cases in state and federal court and engaged in policy advocacy at the state and federal levels on issues ranging from economic justice to, health care, to immigration. In addition to her work at Appleseed, Becky is the Past President of the Robert Van Pelt Inn of Court and serves on the Board of Directors for the Food Bank of Lincoln, the Granary Foundation, the Raymond Central Educational Foundation, and iSoft Data Systems, Inc.

#### Ruth Karlsson
Released and Restored

Ruth Karlsson is the founder and executive director of Released and Restored. Founded on December 7, 2004, Released and Restored’s ongoing mission is to prepare incarcerated women and men for their productive and successful re-entry and return to our local neighborhoods and communities. As part of their women’s programming, Karlsson launched a program called EMPWR: Embracing My Personal Worth and Resiliency with the goal to guide women into believing in their innate beloved-ness, dignity and worth.

#### Abbi Swatsworth
OutNebraska

Abbi Swatsworth is the Executive Director of OutNebraska – a statewide education and advocacy organization that is working to celebrate and empower thriving LGBTQIA+ communities. With a degree in Social Work; more than 20 years of nonprofit experience with marginalized communities; and her lived experiences as a survivor in recovery; she brings an important perspective to her work. Abbi is a member of Lincoln Rotary #14, serves on the Mayor’s Commission on Women, and serves on the Leadership Council of Huespring.

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**#InspireLNK**
Congrats
to the 2020 award winners, finalists & nominees

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Lisa Workman
Mortgage Manager
NMLS#16196

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THANK YOU
To everyone who helped make the 2020 Inspire Girls event such a success. We can’t wait for the next one!
Holly Ostergard has served in countless roles in the Lincoln Community - from operating as an ambitious business leader with the Crete Carrier Corporation, to serving as a benevolent volunteer with numerous nonprofit organizations. Most recently, Holly participated in Mourning Hope’s Team Hope capital campaign fundraising group which was tasked with raising $4M to design and construct Mourning Hope’s first permanent Grief Center. Through Holly’s vision and determined actions, Mourning Hope has blossomed into a thriving Grief Center that has served thousands of families, and now will significantly expand programming and minister to countless more.

Brie Frickenstein
Nebraska Extension
Brie is passionate about increasing equitable healthy food access to those in need. She currently teaches limited resource youth at Title 1 LPS elementary schools, teaches adult classes at various substance abuse treatment centers and homeless shelters and works with the Lincoln Community to help impact the places where people live, work and play by partnering with food distribution sites and farmers’ markets. Brie is the current vice-chair of the Lincoln Young Professionals Group, secretary of the Young NonProfit Professionals Network of Lincoln, and co-leads the Food Security Subcommittee of the Lincoln-Lancaster Food Policy Council.

Michele Walker
Keating, O’Gara, Nedved and Peter
Michele Walker is a mother of 7, a legal assistant for the Keating, O’Gara law firm, and is currently Vice President of Lincoln Legal Professionals Association. Michele’s desire to help at-risk children led her and her husband to become foster and adoptive parents. Her passion for the community has led to volunteer work for the People’s City Mission, and Lincoln Parks & Recreation and as a Lancaster County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), where she champions the interests of at-risk children.

Erin Wirth
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Erin has worked with many organizations that improve the lives of Nebraskans, including the IRS Volunteer Tax Assistance program where she completes tax returns for low-income community members and manages volunteers, Nebraska Main Street Network, March of Dimes, United Way, and she advises UNL student organizations. Professionally, Erin has developed outreach programs for the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Tourism, and she was named the 2018 Marketer of the Year by the American Marketing Association-Lincoln. She currently works for UNMC in communications and community relations.

Karen McGivney-Liechti
CNM-APRN, MSN
Certified Nurse Midwife
Karen was instrumental in starting the CHI Health Birth Center in Lincoln, the state’s only free-standing birth center. As a midwife, Karen welcomes babies into the world and cares for women of all ages. Learn more at CHIhealth.com/birthcenterlincoln

Congratulations to our nominee for the Inspire Excellence in Healthcare Award.
CONGRATULATIONS
To all of the 2020 Inspire Award honorees!

At HBE, our commitment to developing leaders based on their unique individual talents and contributions is demonstrated by our recognition as one of just a handful of firms nationwide with a high proportion of women leaders.

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Zainab Funnah
Lincoln High
Currently a Junior at Lincoln High School, Zainab has participated in leadership opportunities both at school and beyond. She is active on the LHS Pomalinks Dance Team, the Hope Squad, Always Rise Foundation, Launch Leadership and GirlPowr. An advocate for the Black community in Lincoln, she organized the Black is Beautiful Photoshoot to encourage and uplift black beauty for young women.

Elaine Hammer
Retired
Elaine Hammer is the founder of the Great Plains Trails Network, a volunteer organization that raises money for trails in and around Lancaster County. Elaine has been involved with GPTN and trails since it was founded in 1988 and continues to serve on the board. Through her passion and drive, Lincoln now has a 134-mile trails network that reaches nearly every segment of our community. It is hard to imagine another project in our community that has resulted in so many benefits to so many people as trails are free and accessible to everyone.

Paula Ray
Shadows & Light
Paula is a clinical neuropsychologist who has worked at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital for the past 13 years and maintained a private practice since moving to Lincoln in 2007. The performing arts have always played a role in Paula’s life, both personally and professionally. “Shadows & Light: Untold Stories” grew out of work with children and families at the intersection of trauma, mental health and the law helping individuals to find their voices through embodied story-telling of their lived experiences.

Judy Hart
Angels Theatre Company
Judy founded both Angels Theatre Company and Camp Summergold to help women and girls realize their dreams. Judy has served as a mentor to countless local artists within the Lincoln theatre community focusing on developing local playwrights, directors and actors. She founded Camp Summergold as a way to encourage self-esteem, resiliency, and teamwork for teen girls.

Renee Sans Souci
Community Advocate
With a degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and being an Umonhon woman and practitioner of traditional healing, Renee Sans Souci combines her life experiences with a learning process that helps learners to engage in their own cultural identities and languages. Renee has been a Teaching Artist with the Lied Center for Performing Arts since 2009. She has presented at numerous conferences and workshops on various topics related to Native Science, History of Indian Education, Native languages, Poetry, and Sustainability.

Congratulations
to Holly Ostergard and all the 2020 Inspire nominees.

We’re guessing you may be the only one who can drive a semi-truck 😄.

Thank you for your inspirational leadership in our community and the Crete Carrier family.
Celebrating women leaders

Congratulations to all of our previous Woman of the Year winners!

2015: Donde Plowman
Dean, University of Nebraska - Lincoln College of Business

2016: Wendy Birdsall
President, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

2017: Barbara Bartle
President, Lincoln Community Foundation

2018: JoAnn Martin
CEO, Ameritas

2019: Alice Dittman
Former President/CEO, Cornhusker Bank

#InspireLNK JournalStar.com/Inspire
“I would say to each of you if someone offers you a hands-up, take it. And if you have the ability to give somebody a hands-up, give it.”

JoAnn Martin
2018 Woman of the Year

#InspireLNK

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EMPOWER.
INSPIRE.

Cornhusker Bank celebrates women’s leadership and is proud to sponsor the Inspire Awards.

Sometimes
You have to look back in order to understand the things that lie ahead.

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Congratulations to all of the Inspire Award finalists including Margaret Kontras Sutton, M.D.!

We are inspired by all of the nominees unique talents and leadership.
Evada Palmer

Evada Palmer is a senior at Lincoln High School and is active with the Pomalinks dance team, National Honor Society, and the International Baccalaureate Program. Evada has been volunteering for many years with Friendship Home, Lincoln’s only emergency domestic violence shelter. Inspired by the importance of positive messaging during the pandemic, Evada began her on-line business which she has named Hold More Love. Knowing the importance of community, Evada will be partnering with the Malone Center to contribute a portion of her profits to help other young students in the Lincoln community.

Hana Adam

Hana has always been dedicated to promoting equality and equity for her community. She is member of Girls Inc. of Lincoln Eureka! and African American Youth Leadership Programs. Hana has volunteered at the Salvation Army and Food Net. Hana has been involved in Community Learning Center’s academic enrichment programs. She has been involved in the YWCA’s SMART Girls Unite annual event as a moderator to the SMART Women’s Inspire Panel promoting the achievements of local girls and women in S.T.E.M. fields. Winner of the YWCA & Google Coding Challenge. Hana’s career aspiration is to be a journalist and criminal justice investigator.

Eden Kruce

Eden is currently attending Colorado Christian University where she is majoring in Business Administration and double minorin in marketing and communications with the hope of one day working in the sports marketing industry. She is a role model among her peers and teammates, but she often demonstrated the six pillars of character that Lincoln Public Schools desire all students to reach: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Eden helps those who are in need, leads by example, and encourages others to reach their potential.

LeRiyah Clay

At only 10 years old, LeRiyah is a leader. She is heavily involved in multiple activities including the boys basketball team, Girls Scouts, TRACKs program. She fosters the importance of a loving community where all can feel valued, heard, and respected. She leaves no one behind and she is the queen of the little things. When she sees something that isn’t right or a peer who has been let down, she stands up for others and does the right thing, even if it’s not the popular thing to do.

Hailey Olberding

Hailey Olberding is a senior at Lincoln High School. She is a part of the IB Program, as well as a Varsity Dance Team Member and National Honor Society Vice President. She also recently served as a team leader for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She led her team to raise awareness and fundraise over $11,000 amid a global pandemic when fundraising was no easy feat. As a result of her efforts, she was recognized as a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year - the first ever to earn that distinction in Lincoln, Nebraska.
## 2020 Inspire Nominees

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Hana Adam*</td>
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<td>Tonia Tauke Albers</td>
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<td>Rheyian Alwin</td>
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<td>Roma Amundson</td>
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<td>Laura Arp*</td>
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<td>Vivian Ball</td>
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<td>Janet Goodman-Banks</td>
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<td>Angela Beery</td>
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<td>Dr. Stacie Bleicher</td>
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<td>Chris Bockmann*</td>
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<td>Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac*</td>
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<td>Leighun Brabec*</td>
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<td>Stephanie Chase*</td>
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<td>LeRiyah Clay*</td>
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<td>Kathy Collingsworth</td>
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<td>Shannon Crellin</td>
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<td>Charlie Foster</td>
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<td>Laurie Ann Fraser*</td>
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<td>Brianna (Brie) Frickenstein*</td>
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<td>Dr. Susan M. Fritz*</td>
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<td>Zainab Funnah*</td>
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<td>Rebecca “Becky” Gould*</td>
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<td>Christine Weeks*</td>
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<td>Katharen Wiese</td>
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<td>Erin Wirth*</td>
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<td>Haylee Young</td>
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Congratulations to all of the 2020 Inspire nominees and winners.  
Thank you for all that you are doing for our community!
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Sign up today to receive the monthly Inspired Insights newsletter and celebrate the achievements of women in the Lincoln community!

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Carissa Bullock
Vice President - Marketing, Cornhusker Bank

Joy Citta
Retired from Lincoln Police

Connie Edmond
Managing Partner, WRL, CPA

Peter Ferguson
Youth Development Coordinator - Lincoln Public Schools

Shannon Harner
Executive Director, NIFA

Marcia Hunter
Warehouse Unit Manager, Molex LLC

Jasmine Kingsley
SVP Legal and People, General Counsel, Hudl

Michaella Kumke
Community Engagement Director, Food Bank of Lincoln

Monica Ledbetter
Market Manager, Prosperity Home Mortgage

Betsy Perez
Vice President - Marketing, Union Bank & Trust

Becky Perrett
Director of Marketing, Runza National

Ava Thomas
President and Publisher, Lincoln Journal Star

C.J. Thoma
President & CEO, Foundation for Educational Services

Natalia Wiita
Vice President of Sales, Lincoln Journal Star
You’re the women who strengthen our community, lead us forward and motivate us to be the best we can be. Your talent and passion ignite Lincoln and drive positive change.

Congratulations to all 2020 Inspire Award Nominees and Winners.

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

CONGRATULATIONS
To all of the 2020 nominees, finalists, and winners!
Like Cindy, who leads UBT’s Compliance team with unparalleled knowledge, an impeccable eye for detail, and a can-do attitude — while always keeping our customers’ best interests in mind. We couldn’t be prouder of her well-deserved nomination.

It’s our pleasure to applaud and honor all of this year’s nominees for the Inspire Awards. Thank you all for everything you do!

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