

CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Charlotte women honored for achievement

Charlotte Business Journal

Twenty-six Charlotte-area women were recognized July 17 for their business accomplishments, receiving Women in Business Achievement Awards.

The recipients were honored at the *Charlotte Business Journal's* 12th annual awards luncheon, held at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Pam Syfert, retired Charlotte city manager, received the fourth annual Wachovia Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award and was the luncheon's keynote speaker.

Syfert, who spent 35 years in Charlotte city government, noted that many city initiatives failed on the first go-round, including airport-expansion bonds in the 1970s, coliseum-construction bonds in the 1980s and a 1990s transit-tax vote.

"It has not come easily," she says. "Almost every achievement came with an element of failure or controversy or starting all over again."

In each case, the three referenda were passed on subsequent votes.

Jokingly, Syfert says her time growing up on a Nebraska farm prepared her for public service in Charlotte.

"Mucking the manure ... and being pecked by chickens was great training for city manager," she says.

(For the full text of her remarks, click [here](#).)

At the event, 25 women were named award winners for their accomplishments during the past year. This year's class of honorees is:

- Laura Belcher; senior vice president, chief financial officer and chief operations officer; Arts & Science Council.
- Lynn Boggs; president, Presbyterian Hospital and Presbyterian Orthopedic Hospital, chief operating officer, center city market; Novant Health Inc.
- Jo Ann Brighton; special counsel; K&L Gates (formerly Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman).
- Stephanie Counts; chief executive, co-founder; Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange.
- Christy Durbin; president; Red Ventures Radio Sales Group and Education Enrollment Services.

- Dana Edwards; senior director, operations; Lash Group.
- Natalie English; senior vice president, business and education advocacy; Charlotte Chamber.
- Susan Faulkner; senior vice president, global deposits and student lending executive; Bank of America Corp.
- Dot Gerringer-Munson; president, Charlotte Regional Realtor Association; broker-in-charge, RE/MAX Executive Realty.
- Lynn Good; group executive and president, commercial businesses; Duke Energy Corp.
- Kathy Habluetzel; tax partner, Carolinas practice leader, private wealth services; Grant Thornton.
- Robin Helms; vice president; Charlotte Block, a division of Southern Concrete Materials.
- Shawn King; director of marketing; Bonsal American Inc.
- Mary Beth Kuzmanovich; vice president, facilities management group; Carolinas HealthCare System
- Shirley Linn; general counsel; FairPoint Communications Inc.
- Jane McIntyre; executive director; YWCA Central Carolinas.
- Lucy Moore; Realtor; Cottingham-Chalk & Associates.
- Cheryl Myers; senior vice president, planning and development; Charlotte Center City Partners.
- Sally Olin; owner, director; Partners In Care.
- Rachel Richards; vice president of retail strategy; Sonic Automotive Inc.
- Sara Garcés Roselli; president, co-owner; Red F Marketing.
- Laura Smith; partner; Smith + Harbrecht.
- Susan Sollenberger; director of energy and maintenance; Food Lion.
- DeSales Wagster; president; Cabarrus County Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- Mary Wilken; chief executive; Commercial Real Estate Co.

The award recipients are profiled in a special publication included in subscriber copies of the July 18 *Charlotte Business Journal*. Readers can order a copy by calling Rebecca Garner at (704) 973-1100. Each copy is \$5.