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**2017 Tribute to Women Leadership Award Recipients  
exemplify YW mission in their lives and workplaces**

*Award Luncheon Scheduled for Thursday, May 25*

**Pittsburgh, PA (March 27, 2017):** Six women who exemplify the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women will receive 2017 Tribute to Women Leadership Awards at the 35th Annual Tribute to Women Leadership Awards Luncheon on Thursday, May 25, at noon at the Westin Hotel, 1000 Penn Avenue, downtown.

Awards categories and awardees are:

- **Business & Professional Services:** Nancy Rackoff, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC
- **Civic & Community:** Anne Lewis, Board Chair and Co-Owner, Oxford Development Company
- **Education:** Dr. Audrey Murrell, Associate Dean, University of Pittsburgh
- **Health & Human Services:** Rev. Eileen Smith, RN, Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church
- **Science & Technology:** Rebecca Stiger, Refinish Research Manager, PPG Industries
- **Young Leader:** Marita L. Bradley, Chief of Staff, Office of City Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess

A long-time member and current chair of the board of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Nancy Rackoff focuses on creating an accessible, high-performing, patient-directed healthcare system. She has advanced initiatives to improve women's heart health (Working Hearts®), train family caregivers, and champion campus awareness of sexual assault.

Anne Lewis follows her mother's early advice that "people should be judged by the content of their character." Working on the first Tribute to Women Awards, Lewis vowed that were she ever to have a say, she would make sure women would have the same opportunities as men. As the chairman of the board of Oxford Development Company, she got that chance and has worked to ensure that women, minorities and veterans are actively recruited and fast-tracked in their careers.

Dr. Audrey Murrell has researched, taught and served in capacities that addressed issues of gender, diversity and inclusion, engaging with corporations, universities and other entities to develop diverse talent pipelines. A prolific author, she writes about topics ranging from harassment to access to capital and public contracts for minority- and women-owned businesses, and social entrepreneurship.

Rev. Eileen Smith has served as a hospice chaplain for 23 years. She recently retired as a nurse for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The founder of the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace and Pittsburgh's Minority Emergency Preparedness Task Force, she has written an online curriculum case study on Community Emergency Response Teams for Harvard University.

Driving diversity is Rebecca Stiger's passion. As a member of the PPG Women's Leadership Council and executive sponsor of the R & D Diversity Council, she actively seeks to encourage more events and programs that provoke a dialogue of diversity and inclusion within the corporation.

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Marita Bradley led research and assisted in community outreach for the Pittsburgh Lethality Assessment Program, a community-wide domestic violence prevention project, garnering the support of nine district churches. She also focuses on housing as it impacts women with children who are single heads of household and is involved in the implementation of a major federal housing grant in Pittsburgh's Larimer neighborhood.

"These remarkable women are truly change makers. Each and every day they make genuine, meaningful contributions to their professions and the greater Pittsburgh community." says Magdeline E. Jensen, CEO of YWCA Greater Pittsburgh. "They embody the promise that we envision for all women."

Since the 1983 inaugural Tribute to Women Leadership Award, the YW has honored the achievements of more than 250 exceptional women, saluting them for helping to shape the direction of the region and improve the lives of others.

Proceeds from the luncheon will help create positive change in the lives of thousands of area women and families through the broad range of YW programs that address racial justice and civil rights, health and wellness, economic advancement, and leadership, empowerment and STEM activities for young women.

For more information about tickets and corporate sponsorships, call 412-255-1261 or visit [ywcapgh.org](http://ywcapgh.org).

YWCA Greater Pittsburgh is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all, envisioning a community that advances education, opportunity, and equity regardless of gender, race, or background. Today, YWCA serves more than 70,000 women, children, and families every year.

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