

Women Who Rock Award Categories

The community is encouraged to nominate women who live or work in Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie or Martin Counties. Women who reside in Brevard County will be recognized at the luncheon on March 22nd in Melbourne. Women who reside in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties will be recognized at the luncheon on March 28th in Stuart.

We do our best to celebrate ALL nominees during the month of March! Committees of weVENTURE WBC and SBDC coaches will evaluate all nominations. One outstanding nominee from each category will be recognized as a 2022 recipient of the Women Who Rock Awards.

Category Descriptions

Small Business Owner of the Year

The Small Business Owner of the Year Award recognizes a woman who creates the products, services, and jobs that fuel our economy and helps our community grow. Nominees that meet any of the following criteria will be considered:

- Women who own and operate a business that has less than 50 full-time employees.
- Women who have contributed to the economic impact of our region by creating jobs or providing a product or service to significant number of customers, clients or the community at large.
- Women who engage in shaping the community they work in through social corporate responsibility efforts or community interaction.

Executive of the Year

Despite gains in recent years, women still remain underrepresented across the corporate ladder, most notable at the top. According to the 2021 Women in the Workplace study, women account for just 25 percent of C-suite level positions. The Executive of the Year Award recognizes a woman who has persevered the labyrinth of hurdles to achieve a senior leadership position in a larger corporate environment. Nominees for this category are women who serve as outstanding examples feminine leadership and excellence in business management. Nominees will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Managers and executives from corporations with more than 100 employees.
- A demonstrated record of positive business outcomes.
- Commitment to the highest ethical standards
- A commitment to developing a more equitable workplace. For example, advocating for policy changes that will maximize the potential of female talent and opportunities for the advancement of other underrepresented workers coming up behind her.

Excellence in Mentorship

The Excellence in Mentorship Award recognizes a community leader who dedicates her time to the mentorship and advancement of other women. This mentorship can be either formal (as part of formal mentoring program) or informal, and can be business mentorship or personal. Nominations should reflect an individual who has demonstrated leadership in improving our community for women and who possesses leadership qualities with a focus on fostering relationships and promoting positive outcomes for women. Nominees will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Commitment to the success of mentee or mentees
- A demonstrated desire to both teach and learn.
- Demonstration of positive role model role – embodiment of “Do as I do, not as I say”
- Women who have an ability to inspire hope in others and motivate them to achieve personal success.

Women Trending in Tech

The Women Trending in Tech award recognizes women who exemplify excellence within Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. From start-ups to corporate management, women whose work involves innovative technologies, or the development of technological resources will be considered for this award. Nominees from diverse industries are welcome, and may meet any of the below criteria.

- The application of technological, engineering or design-based skills in a woman’s direct work within a business of any size, or in service to the community.
- Women who have received professional recognition or career promotion for their work on innovative projects related to their STEM career path.
- Women who have identified an opportunity to increase efficiencies within a business or the community through the innovative creation or implementation of technology.
- Women within any of the STEM disciplines who have had demonstrable results with a positive impact for the business, clients or community they serve.

Excellence in Caregiving

According to the Department of Labor, 77% of the workforce in the healthcare and social assistance industry are women. The Excellence in Caregiving award is an opportunity to recognize one local healthcare provider or professional who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to patient care. Nominations may be made by a colleague or patient of a woman meets any of the following criteria:

- A local healthcare provider or professional who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to patient care in their direct work, or in an executive function as manager or owner of healthcare company.
- Women who have gone above and beyond to provide hope as well as healing to patients in her care.
- Women whose work has had a significant impact on the improved welfare of others.

Zonta Yellow Rose for Excellence in Community Service

- Each year in honor of Zonta Rose Day, Zontians all over the world present a yellow rose to men and women who have honored Zonta's vision by helping women achieve their full potential. In such a world, every woman is literate and has access to education, health care, legal and economic resources on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence. Nominees will be evaluated on how the nominee demonstrated their commitment to serving women in the community and providing hope for a better future.