

Women of Distinction 2009

Philadelphia Business Journal - by [Sonja Sherwood](#) Staff Writer

More than 400 guests attended a celebration dinner last night at the Sheraton City Center to honor the 26 winners of the **Philadelphia Business Journal's** annual Women of Distinction award.

This year's winners are below. Click on a photo at right to begin a slide show. Complete coverage is available in this week's print edition of the Philadelphia Business Journal.

At the event each of the winners was asked to share one gift they'd received from their mother. Winners responded with answers such as "my sister," "the gift of gab," and "the courage of conviction."

The award program, now in its 12th year, recognizes women in the Delaware Valley for their professional accomplishments, community involvement, honors and milestones. Winners were selected by a panel of judges from 319 nominations.

This year the judges also singled out one winner for the inaugural Rising Star award, a new tradition that recognizes the achievements of a woman under the age of 35. That award went to 34-year-old globetrotter Kerri Kennedy, who runs Women's Campaign International, an organization that prepares women in developing countries for public office.

2009 Women of Distinction

- Elisa Basnight, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
- Kimberly J. Brumbaugh, Brumbaugh Wealth Management (MetLife)
- Mary Cushing Doherty, High Swartz
- Gloria Ferraro Donnelly, Drexel's College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Janice Fedarcyk, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Philadelphia)
- Laura Foster, Please Touch Museum
- Valerie Frick, Camden City Garden Club/Camden Children's Garden
- Saly Glassman, Merrill Lynch
- Jacqueline Jenkins, Milligan & Co.
- Lendel Jones, American Water Co.
- Kerri Kennedy, Women's Campaign International.
- Claresa Levetan, CureDM Inc.
- Natalia Olson-Urtecho, H2L2 & Ecolibrium Group
- Shawn Puccio, Saint-Gobain Corp.
- Nilda Ruiz, Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha
- Lynn Rzonca, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll
- Susan Saidens, SMS Valuation & Forensic Services
- Kyrsta Scully, The Four Seasons Hotel/Viceroy Snowmass
- Susan Stein, Connexion Healthcare
- Susanne Svizeny, Wachovia Bank (Wells Fargo)
- Elaine Thompson, Lankenau Hospital
- Claudia Timbo, The Corporate Call Center Inc.
- Stella Tsai, Archer & Greiner
- Denise Viola Monahan, PNC Bank
- Judy Ward, Advanced Enviro Systems
- Ahmeenah Young, Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority

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WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

“There still is definitely a gap”

As chief operating officer at Philadelphia accounting firm Milligan & Co., Jacqueline Jenkins is all about the big picture.

In June 2008 the 45-person firm brought Jenkins on board not just to manage daily ops but to lay a plan for the future. After 25 years in business, the CPAs were looking for a vision that would guide them through the next quarter century.



Beyond just sketching out that vision, Jenkins has made it her business to execute. “The firm saw the need to not just create a plan, but to have a resource that could implement that plan — that resource being me,” she said. “In my former lives I have either played the role of a director of an entity or someone who is actually executing on a strategy, and I have brought that background to what I am doing here. That was one of the reasons I took the position, because I saw they would really give me the opportunity to create change in the organization,” she said. Jenkins brings practical experience to the task. A former director of the Wharton Small Business Development Center (SBDC), she also served as chief financial officer in the early-stage technology startup Black Cyberspace Online, where she helped raise some \$2 million in investor backing.

“As a finance person it was a wonderful experience to do all those things that you hear about: justifying the market, identifying investors, actually pitching the idea and selling it,” she said.

She went on to launch Add Value Day 1, helping early-stage companies secure the talent they needed to prove their value in the investment marketplace.

Beyond these professional accomplishments, Jenkins has found ways to share her talents with the community at large.

Jenkins “continuously strives to make a difference in Philadelphia through her professional roles and community involvement. While her passion is business, her ultimate joy comes from enhancing the lives of others,” said Lorina Marshall-Blake, vice president of government relations at Independence Blue Cross. “Jacqui believes in Philadelphia and more importantly believes that she can make a contribution to her hometown.”

She is a leader in Victory Christian Center and an organizer of a citywide business plan competition for local youths conducted in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute of Temple University’s Fox School of Business, the Mayor’s Commission on Technology (MCOT), and State Senator LeAnna Washington.

Jenkins also serves on the board of the Greater Philadelphia Minority Business Strategic Alliance, a nonprofit organization that supports the growth and development of minority firms.

“There still is definitely a gap in terms of access to capital, especially when you start talking about businesses that are funded by equity versus debt, [...] there still is a gap,” she said.

— Adam Stone