2021 Women of Distinction Awards
Her Night to Shine
Woman & Young Woman
Nomination Form

Please read the following carefully as there have been specific changes to the nomination process.

YWCA Rock County invites you to participate in our Annual Women of Distinction Awards by nominating a woman, young woman (21 and under) who has made a significant impact in our community and achieved personal & professional success. While the achievements of women in their professional capacity is worthy of celebration, women who perform outside of their professional duties and obligations are equally impressive. In completing the application, consider how the nominee has achieved personal & professional success that is perceived to be above and beyond what could be expected.

Since 1975, the YWCA Rock County Women of Distinction Awards has honored more than 250 individuals and organizations who have improved women’s lives through community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership, and dedication to the well-being of others.

Last year, we celebrated our 45th Annual Women of Distinction Awards virtually. We honored Young Woman of Distinction: Gabriella Petruzzello; Women of Distinction: Abbey Donahue, Mary Fanning-Penny, Evelyn Galindo, Ph.D., Lori Stottler, and Dr. Marijuana P. Vandyck; Corporate Award of Merit: Jane Blain Gilbertson, President & CEO of Blain’s Farm & Fleet.

Who will be honored in 2021?

Nominations must be received no later than 4pm on Friday, April 23, 2021. Please ensure all nominations and letters of support/recommendation are current to the 2021 nomination process. Letters dated more than 60 days prior will not be considered by the selection committee.

On Thursday evening, August 12, 2021, we will award honors for Women of Distinction and Young Women of Distinction.

Nomination Guidelines

As you decide who to nominate, you should be able to check the following:

☐ I am not submitting a nomination of someone who has already received the award.
☐ I am not a current Women of Distinction Selection Committee member.
☐ The person I want to nominate is not a Women of Distinction Selection Committee member.
☐ The person I want to nominate lives, works or volunteers in Rock County.
☐ The person I want to nominate has the following characteristics:
   - is a role model for other women and has inspired other women and girls to achieve success while exhibiting qualities of leadership, teamwork, integrity, and dedication
   - has demonstrated excellence, accomplishment and creativity in their profession, community or lives
   - is dedicated to social justice, racial equality, and diversity throughout our community
   - is committed to improving the quality of life in our community

Mail to:
YWCA Women of Distinction
1735 S. Washington St.
Janesville, WI 53546

Email to:
Kari Dray
kdray@ywcarockco.com

Awards Night
Recipients receive their awards THURSDAY evening, AUGUST 12th at our gala Her Night to Shine event at Glen Erin Golf Club/The Celtic House in Janesville.

Selection Process
YWCA Women of Distinction are selected by an independent panel of community members, past recipients, and YWCA board.
How to Nominate a Woman or Young Woman of Distinction in Three Easy Steps

{STEP ONE} Complete the information below. Please print or type.

{THE NOMINEE}

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ______________ Zip: ____________

Employer: _________________________________________________________

Cell Phone: __________________________ Email: _________________________

{ABOUT YOU, THE NOMINATOR}

Your name: _________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ______________ Zip: ____________

Cell Phone: __________________________ Email: _________________________

Employer: _________________________________________________________

{STEP TWO} Please answer each of the following questions with 250 words or less. There are guide prompts on a few of the questions that do not require a response. If your nominee has achieved success in more than one area such as at work, at church, by assisting a nonprofit organization, etc., **no more than two letters of support may be submitted per area.**

1. What is your relationship to the nominee?

2. Summarize your nominee’s accomplishments for use as an introduction to the nominee in publicity materials.
3. **Role Model:** Describe how this person has served as a role model for others in her community or her profession. The following questions can serve as a guide to help you provide a response.
   a. How has the nominee influenced the lives of others?
   b. How does she mentor and to what level?
   c. How has she helped women and girls achieve their goals?
   d. Is she a role model in her profession or in a volunteer capacity?
   e. Has the nominee broken down any barriers for future generations or worked to close the leadership gap? If so, how?

4. **Community Involvement:** How has the nominee given back to the community through her time, talent, and/or resources? How has the nominee shown initiative or taken on a leadership role as a volunteer?

5. **Achievements:** How has the nominee demonstrated sustained excellence, accomplishment, and creativity in her profession? Has the nominee received any notable commendations or awards? Please give specifics about how the nominee has garnered respect within Rock County or her professional field.

6. **Eliminating Racism & Empowering Women:** How has the nominee shown that she actively supports the YWCA mission of eliminating racism and empowering women? The following questions can serve as a guide to help you provide a response.
   a. How has she proactively strengthened policies, practices, attitudes and/or actions that are creating equity for everyone?
   b. How is she involved in women’s issues, specifically those that improve women’s economic status or help close the leadership gap?
   c. How has she worked to eliminate racism and make the Rock County community more inclusive and equitable?

7. **State any other reasons why this nominee should be recognized as a Woman of Distinction.** (OPTIONAL)
STEP THREE  Submit this Nomination Form and any other supporting materials or letters to the YWCA Rock County by 4PM, Friday, April 23, 2021. If your nominee has achieved success in more than one area such as at work, at church, by assisting a nonprofit organization, etc., no more than two letters of support may be submitted per area.

- via email to kdray@ywcarockco.com
- fax 608-755-4743
- or drop off one printed copy at YWCA Rock County
  1735 South Washington Street
  Janesville, WI 53546

Our Mission
YWCA Rock County is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

www.ywcarockcounty.org