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Esteemed Women of Michigan honorees applauded

By JEN BUCCIARELLI, RochesterMedia.com

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The Royal Park Hotel in Rochester was teeming with moguls from all career paths Monday, as 27 women were applauded at the fourth-annual Esteemed Women of Michigan luncheon. Recognized for their work and impact in surrounding communities, the women celebrated ranged from presidents of local companies, foundation leaders, to a mayor, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, a former police sergeant and a youth activist to a state senator and more. Whether you hear it from predecessors or you experience it

first-hand, balancing life and work is an art.

But for the 27 women honored, they seem to have it down.

It couldn't have been more appropriate: Mistress of ceremonies and former WXYZ-TV news anchor Diana Lewis and daughter Glenda Lewis were running late to Monday's event because of a sick child at home.

The Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic, a free medical clinic in Pontiac, hosted the luncheon.

"I get the opportunity to meet these women who are doing so many wonderful things," said Pam Haratsis, executive director for the clinic. "It's very inspiring — they truly are," she said.

Frances Mocerri, who was nominated for her work with the Michigan chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, said: "This is just such a wonderful organization and I have been privileged to work with them."

With honorees of all ages and communities, the event also has its focus on future generations. Each year, a female high school student is selected for crafting an inspiring essay. This year's topic: What are you doing to implement change in your community?

"There are young women taking on causes for abuse and women's rights and we were just astounded to see this," Haratsis said. "These are the young women that in the years to come, will be the esteemed women. These women are going places, they're doing things for people."

Maggie Berwick, 17, from the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills, earned her spot at the luncheon for her essay. Berwick's writing details how she created a high school club, Women's Rights Awareness Club, which examines social injustices on a larger scale. She also honored for her work tutoring youngsters, traveling abroad for humanity projects as well as founding a community service club. She received \$500 for her entry.

While most recipients attended the luncheon, a few had representatives accept their award and one honoree's life was celebrated in memoriam. Francile Anderson, "a true spitfire" as clinic chairman Jay Haratsis described her, died only weeks before the event.

For a complete list of the 2013 Esteemed Women of Michigan and how they are influencing their community, visit www.GaryBurnsteinClinic.org.

URL: <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/general-news/20131003/esteemed-women-of-michigan-honorees-applauded>

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