



Great Lakes Women's Business Council  
 33109 Schoolcraft Rd.  
 Livonia, MI 48150

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards**

Corporations to be recognized for commitment to women-owned businesses

**Livonia, MI Monday, September 12** -The Great Lakes Women's Business Council will present the 2016 *Excellence in Supplier Diversity award winners* at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Lakes Women's Business Conference Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, September 28, at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, MI.

The **Excellence in Supplier Diversity Recognition Program** was designed to identify and recognize those corporations that have outstanding supplier diversity programs which result in the inclusion of certified women business owners in their supply chain. While women business owners represent 1/3 of all businesses in this country, they only receive 2 – 3% of corporate and government sales opportunities. Nineteen of our corporate members will be recognized for their support and commitment to inclusion based on leadership involvement in supplier diversity, spend with women business owners, capacity building/mentoring activities with women business owners, alignment with corporate strategy, integration of supplier diversity in communication plans and advocacy of women owned businesses.

"These companies recognize that women make 80% of the consumer decisions and influence the other 20%. It is a business imperative, not a social responsibility" states Michelle Richards, Great Lakes Women's Business Council, Executive Director.

<b>Best In Class</b>	<b>Advance</b>	<b>Emerging</b>
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles	Walbridge	Henry Ford Health System
Comerica Bank	DURA Automotive Systems, LLC	Herman Miller
DTE Energy	Anthem	Strategic Staffing Solutions
Ford Motor Company		Barton Malow
General Motors Company		Delphi Corp.
Kelly Services		IAC-International Automotive Components
Toyota		Wayne State University
Blue Cross Blue Shield		MSX International

Through the Great Lakes Women's Business Council, corporations and government purchasing programs are helping to **bridge the gap** in contracting activities between certified women business owners and corporate & government buyers.

**What:** Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards

**When:** Wednesday, September 28, 2016

**Where:** Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48374

**Time:** 12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

To register or learn more about the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Lakes Women's Business Conference, [visit our website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or like our [Facebook page](#).

### **About the Great Lakes Women's Business Council**

Founded in 1984, Great Lakes Women's Business Council (Great Lakes WBC), a Michigan-based nonprofit organization, is a champion for women, minority and small business owners and provides access to capital and corporate procurement opportunities, certification for women-owned business enterprises and small business educational support. Great Lakes WBC represents more than 1,100 WBENC-certified women's business owners generating approximately \$13.5 billion in annual revenue and employing 44,400 U.S. workers, as well as 95 corporate partners in a diverse range of industry sectors. For more information, visit [greatlakeswbc.org](http://greatlakeswbc.org)

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