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**SmartCEO Celebrated 40 Top Female CEOs and Executives
at the 2016 Brava Awards, Sept. 13**

More than 200 CEOs and decision-makers joined SmartCEO in honoring female CEOs and executives at the highly anticipated, high-energy celebration

Charlotte, NC (Sept. 14, 2016) — Charlotte SmartCEO honored the region's top female business leaders at the inaugural 2016 Brava Awards, which took place Tuesday, Sept. 13 at The Fillmore Charlotte. Brava award winners combine their irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit with a passion for giving back to the community by encouraging local philanthropy, mentoring up-and-coming leaders and setting their companies on the path to tremendous growth. This year's 40 CEO and executive winners collectively generate more than \$24.69 billion in annual revenue and employ more than 53,800 individuals in Greater Charlotte.

Please see below for a complete list of winners. For more information on this year's Brava winners, visit www.smartceo.com/charlotte-brava to read their inspiring stories published in SmartCEO magazine.

“Brava winners possess the hallmark qualities of successful leaders — vision, passion, compassion, dedication, perseverance. Each winner in this inaugural class exhibits these qualities in all facets of her life, from running her business to tending to her family and donating time and resources to philanthropic initiatives,” says Jaime Nesor-Zawmon, president of SmartCEO. “We are honored to recognize a group of Charlotte women who are truly making a difference in the world.”

More than 200 executives, friends and family attended the high-energy celebration to honor the 2016 Brava winners and their achievements. The event kicked off with high-energy networking, followed by a video-packed awards presentation that honored each winner for their business leadership, philanthropy and mentoring.

Charlotte



SmartCEO's

**BRAVA
AWARDS**
Honoring top female CEOs

2016 Brava Winners

Georgia Harris Krueger (*Nonprofit winner*)

Ada Jenkins Center

Brenda Harris

BPN Healthcare Concepts

Isabel Gonzalez

Century 21 Providence

Jenni Gaisbauer (*Nonprofit winner*)

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Foundation

Ann Clark (*Nonprofit winner*)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Karen Calder (*Nonprofit winner*)

Classroom Central

Karen Swope

CSI Property Management

Julie Haack

Donald Haack Diamonds, Inc.

Kim McDonald

Elite Resources Premier Staffing

Suzy Johnson

Employee Benefit Advisors of the
Carolinas, LLC

Angela H. Woods (*Nonprofit winner*)

Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council

Carrie C. Howell (*Nonprofit winner*)

Hospitality House of Charlotte

Jennifer Guthrie

In-Flight Crew Connections

Barbara McCall

Ladd, McCall & Associates, CPAs, PA

Liz Etheredge

Mecklenburg Paint Co. Inc.

Brandy Milazzo

Milazzo Schaffer Webb Law, PLLC

Pamela C. Smith

Morrison Smith Jewelers Inc.

Dr. Cheryl Richards (*Nonprofit winner*)

Northeastern University - Charlotte

Faith Glasgow

Peak Limousine, LLC

Angela Mastoras Key

Premier Resources & Premier
Healthcare Resources

Robin Pugh

Queen Associates, Inc.

Dr. Holly Clemens

Queen City Health Center

Debbie Warren (*Nonprofit winner*)

RAIN

Cindy Praeger

Rhythm Systems

Amanda W. Stophel

Service Pros Installation Group, Inc.

Penny L. Benkeser

Servpro of Northwest Charlotte, Lincoln
and Gaston Counties

Naomi Reale

Sisco Fire & Safety

Kristen Prestwood

Spark By Design

Elaine Creasser

Tile Collection

Heather Hanes Thompson

Trinity Partners

Delaine M. Mead

Valuebiz Office Furniture



www.smartceo.com



2016 Brava Executive Category Winners

Jill Philmon

Ballantyne Country Club

Lara Simmons Nichols

Duke Energy

Vicki Hafele

Duncan-Parnell Inc.

Sandi Thorman

GreerWalker LLP

Bethany Khashman

ImagineSoftware

Julie Ayers

LBA Haynes Strand, PLLC

Marie McLucas

Primax Properties LLC

Shikha Kashyap

Syntelli Solutions

Rebecca Hardin

Verigent, LLC

About the Brava Awards

The Brava Awards program celebrates high-impact female business leaders in three categories: CEOs, Executive Directors of Nonprofits, and C-suite executives. Brava award winners combine their irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit with a passion for giving back to the community, and are exemplary leaders of both their companies and their communities. They encourage local philanthropy, mentor up-and-coming leaders and set their companies on the path to tremendous growth. Each year, an independent committee of local business leaders selects winners based on company growth, community impact and mentoring. SmartCEO shares their inspiring stories in *SmartCEO* magazine and celebrates their success at a high-energy awards gala.

About SmartCEO

SmartCEO's mission is to educate and inspire the business community through its award-winning magazine, connections at C-level events and access to valuable online resources. SmartCEO's integrated media platforms reach decision makers in the Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Long Island, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC, metropolitan areas.

For more information about the 2017 Brava Awards nomination process and sponsorship opportunities, email Melissa Sawyer at melissa@smartceo.com.

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