

For Immediate Release  
March 24, 2008

Contact: Terry Rye  
513-361-2126  
[trye@ywcacin.org](mailto:trye@ywcacin.org)

THE 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
YWCA SALUTE TO CAREER WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT  
ANNOUNCES EIGHT HONOREES  
SOLEDAD O'BRIEN TO SPEAK AT CAREER WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT  
LUNCHEON ON April 29, 2008

Cincinnati, OH-Co-chairs Kathy Daly and Adrienne James announced today the eight women selected to receive this year's prestigious award. On Tuesday, April 29, 2008 the YWCA will recognize honorees at the YWCA Career Women of Achievement luncheon at The Duke Energy Center. Soledad O'Brien, anchor and special correspondent for CNN: Special Investigations Unit will be keynote speaker at the event. Also recognized at this event is the recipient of the YWCA's Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship, which is awarded to an African-American high school senior and the recipient of the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund Scholarship, which is awarded to a YWCA participant completing an educational program that is crucial to securing employment and financial stability. The cost of individual tickets for the luncheon is \$50. Corporate sponsor tables are also available. For more information, call the YWCA of the Greater Cincinnati at (513) 241-7090. The YWCA Career Women of Achievement for 2008 are as follows:

**Laura N. Brunner**, Managing Principal, Colliers Turley Martin Tucker  
**Gina Drosos**, President, Global Personal Beauty, The Procter & Gamble Company  
**Crystal Faulkner**, CPA, CFD, Partner, Cooney, Faulkner & Stevens, LLC  
**Uma Kotagal**, MBBS, MSc, Senior Vice President, Quality & Transformation, Director, Health Policy & Clinical Effectiveness, Children's Hospital Medical Center  
**Sandra P. Meyer**, President, Duke Energy Ohio and Duke Energy Kentucky  
**Celine Taribo Piri**, President/CEO, TariCel Management Staffing  
**Monica J. Posey**, Ed. D., Academic Vice President, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College  
**Maribeth Rahe**, President and CEO Chief Executive, Fort Washington Investment Advisors

Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship Award winner:  
**Amber Henderson**, senior at Western Hills Design Technology

Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, Scholarship winner:  
**Ryan Byes**, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

"The YWCA Career Women of Achievement luncheon was started in 1980 to increase community awareness and appreciation of the diverse contributions of women in the work force," states Charlene Ventura, YWCA President & CEO. "We are always greatly impressed with the personal stories of our honorees – stories of accomplishment, intelligence, and creativity. It is a privilege to celebrate the 2008 honorees."

Every year, around 100 professional women are nominated, and an independent panel of five community leaders selected those best exemplifying personal career success, dynamic leadership qualities and the unique ability to serve as role models. This year's judges are as follows:

Jim Ellerhorst, Managing Partner, Cincinnati Office, Deloitte & Touche USA LLP

Edgar L. Smith, CEO, World Pac Paper

Ellen G. van der Horst, President & CEO, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Judith B. Van Ginkel, President, Every Child Succeeds/CHMC

Kathy Wade, Owner, Learning Through Art, Inc.

#### The 2008 YWCA Salute to Career Women of Achievement Luncheon

Tuesday, April, 29, 2008

11:30 Registration; 12:00 Luncheon

The Duke Energy Center

Ticket price: \$50.00

Corporate Table Prices: \$1,000 - \$15,000

For tickets and information, call (513) 241-7090

#### **Laura N. Brunner**

Managing Principal

Colliers Turley Martin Tucker

- First and only female to serve as Managing Principal at CTMT, a \$130 million dollar company. Active member of Executive Committee and Board. Personally manages annual budget of \$18M and is responsible for 140 employees, including 30 brokers, in Cincinnati and Dayton.
- First female leader of a major commercial real estate firm in the Cincinnati region
- First female partner at 40-year old accounting firm Barnes, Denning & Co.
- One of only two women to serve as Board President of the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where she championed ScoutREACH, a program targeting inner-city children for Boy Scout participation
- Passed the CPA exam on first attempt, after completing her degree in only 3 years
- The Playhouse in the Park, Board Member
- Christ College of Nursing and Health Science, Treasurer
- Downtown Cincinnati, Inc., Board Member
- Cincinnati USA Partnership, Steering Committee Member

- The Cincinnati Association, Member
- Former Board member at Key Bank, Al Neyer, Inc, Beech Acres Foundation and Cincinnati Ballet, among many others

### **Gina Drosos**

President, Global Personal Beauty  
The Procter and Gamble Company

- President of P&G's Global Personal Beauty, a \$6 billion organization with over 15,000 people.
- Celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with P&G in 2007
- Transformed Olay into a leading global franchise increasing sales more than 600 percent
- Led Olay's expansion into new beauty segments and global markets including Spain, Russia, Turkey and Poland
- Launched several, breakthrough Olay products including Regenerist (2003), Total Effects (2000), Daily Facials (2000), and Olay Moisturizing Body Wash – the first body wash in the U.S. Market (1994)
- Cosmetic Executive Women: 1998 – present
- Recipient of the 2007 Cosmetic Executive Women Building Leaders Achiever Award
- Big Brother/Big Sister – Cincinnati
- American Cancer Society Event Coordinator – Cincinnati
- Indoor Tennis Women's Career League Player – USTA/Cincinnati
- Youth League Basketball Coach – Cincinnati YMCA & Lutherville/Timonium Recreation League
- Active Church Leader

### **Crystal Faulkner, CPA, CFD**

Partner  
Cooney, Faulkner & Stevens, LLC

- First CPA firm to have been awarded the Small Business Excellence Award by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Founder of Accounting for Kids Day, an annual event that began in Cincinnati eight years ago and now extends statewide, touching over 10,000 children in twenty-two Ohio cities in 2007
- First woman to be elected President of the Association of Corporate Growth in Cincinnati
- Named a Freedom's Hero by the National Underground Freedom Center
- Received the Beacon of Light Award by Lighthouse Youth Services
- First Woman to Chair the Hamilton County Business Center
- Served as President for the Cincinnati Chapter of Certified Public Accountants
- 2008 Cincinnati Leading Women Awardee
- Host of the WCPO Channel 9 weekly Business Report
- Tax Expert for the Cincinnati Enquirer
- Host and Financial Expert of Fifth Third Business Beat
- Weekly Radio Host of Business Wise, On Air Financial resource, WNKU & WMKV
- Author of numerous articles and financial related topics in local and regional publications
- Serves on Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Government Affairs Council (Chair)
- Serves on Cincinnati Union Bethel Board of Directors, Executive Committee

- First and only woman to win the Hamilton County Development Company Larry Albice Award, given to an entrepreneur who displays significant community service (2002)
- Received the 2002 Cincinnati Chamber Community Service Award

### **Uma Raman Kotagal, MBBS, MSc**

Senior Vice President, Quality and Transformation

Director, Division of Health Policy and Clinical Effectiveness

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

- One of the top three female executives at Cincinnati Children's. Leads a team of 75 employees and manages an annual budget of 4.8 million and produced more pediatric evidence-based guidelines than any other institution
- Vice President of Quality and Transformation, 2002; promoted to Senior Vice President in 2006
- Professor of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati
- Director, Regional Center for Newborn Intensive Care at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (1990-1993)
- Director of the newborn nurseries at University Hospital (1984-1993)
- Instrumental in Cincinnati Children's receiving the Quest for Quality Prize (American Hospital Association, 2006) and Innovative Solutions Award (Greater Cincinnati Health Council, 2007)
- Best Teacher Award (voted by graduating pediatric residents, 1981)
- Clinician-teacher Award, Division of Neonatology, 1992
- Led a two-year collaborative among ten area hospitals to implement evidence-based practice to reduce central line and surgical site infections, which resulted in the Codman Award (2005, Joint Commission)
- Quality Improvement Advisor for a large-scale project to improve outcomes for pregnant women and newborns in Malawi, Africa. Travels to Africa every two to three months and spends up to two weeks coaching staff at the nine hospitals in central Malawi, as well as government leaders and others
- Volunteer Leadership Award, Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, 2003

### **Sandra P. Meyer**

President

Duke Energy Ohio and Duke Energy Kentucky

- Leads Duke Energy's Ohio and Kentucky operations, serving approximately 650,000 customers in southwest Ohio and approximately 145,000 customers in six northern Kentucky counties
- First female officer of Texas Eastern Corporation
- First female elected as President of the Houston Chapter of Financial Executives International
- Duke Energy Pinnacle Award, 2006
- Charlotte, NC Women in Business Achievement Award, 2000
- Financial Executives International, National Large Chapter Professional Development Award, 1995
- 2007 Fine Arts Fund Cabinet
- Board member: Cincinnati USA Regional Partnership Board, Cincinnati Business Committee, Cincinnati City Center Development Corp.
- Board member, Regional Stewardship Council, Bethesda Inc.
- Board member, Ohio Business Roundtable
- Board member, United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- Former President and Board member of the ESCAPE Family Resource Center in Houston and Board member of Advanced Energy Inc. in Raleigh, NC

- PACE (People, Arts, Community, Education) Volunteer Leadership Award, 1996
- Boy Scouts of America, Rising Star District Award, 1989

### **Celine Taribo Piri**

President & CEO

TariCel Management Staffing

- Manages fifteen full-time employees and 1,800 temporary employees across three states
- Small Business Excellence Award finalist, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, 2007
- First woman Vice President and later, President, of the Nigerian Association of Greater Cincinnati
- Northern Kentucky Human Resources Association, Board member and Diversity Chair
- Vice Chair, South Central Ohio Minority Business Council's MBEIC
- President, Nigerian Women Eagles Club
- Founding member, Greater Cincinnati Women Chamber of Commerce
- Founding member, Women of AT&T Cincinnati Chapter
- Former member, AT&T Diversity Council
- Runner-up, 2007 Woman of the Year (WE Celebrate)
- Nefertiti Award, Cincinnati Herald and Sesh Communications, 2002
- Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, Board member and Membership Chair
- Cincinnati USA Minority Advisory Board, member
- Cincinnati Public Schools volunteer
- Bethany House volunteer
- Tender Mercies volunteer

### **Monica J. Posey, Ed. D.**

Vice President of Academics

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

- Manages \$30 million budget
- Oversees 240 full time and 400 part time employees
- Established new programs in Renewable Energy, Power Systems, Safety & Security Management, Legal Assistant, Technology and Pastry Arts, in collaboration with college Deans
- Negotiated relocation of Greater Cincinnati Tech Prep Consortium to Cincinnati State
- Leading Woman Award, 2005
- Chair-elect Chief Academic Officer Council, 2007-present, Greater Cincinnati Consortium of College & Universities
- AT&T Company Professional Excellence Award, 1990
- University of Cincinnati APPLE Award for Outstanding Teaching & Service to Students, 1987
- Member, CPS Woodward Career Technical High School Advisory Committee
- Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, Board of Trustees
- Minorities in Mathematics, Science & Engineering Board of Trustees; Annual Fundraising Luncheon Co-Chair, 2004

- Ohio Learning Network Chair Governing Board, 2005 – 2007
- Cooperative Education Advisory Board, 2003–2006, College of Mount St. Joseph
- Ohio Cooperative Education Association, former Executive Board Member
- St. Mark Catholic Church Keeping the Dream Alive Award, 2004
- Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Honorary Member, 2004
- NKY Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance ML King Convene for the Dream Award, 2003
- YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Black Achiever, 1985

### **Maribeth Rahe**

President & CEO

Fort Washington Investment Advisors

- President and Chief Executive Officer of Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. (FWIA), the largest investment advisor in Ohio (a wholly owned subsidiary of Western & Southern)
- One of five women in executive management at Western & Southern
- Manages an annual budget of over \$30 billion
- Oversees five offices in four states with more than 105 employees
- Member of the Women's Markets Steering Committee
- The Executive Order of the Ohio Commodores, 2007
- Athena Award Finalist, 2007
- The Committee of 200 (C200), member and Board of Directors
- Capital Analysts Incorporated, Chairman of the Board (a wholly owned subsidiary of Western & Southern)
- Center for Women's Business Research, Advisory Council
- Todd Investment Advisors, Inc., Board
- Consolidated Communications Illinois Holdings, Inc., Board
- Outstanding Alumnus, Thunderbird School of Global Management, 1993
- YWCA Outstanding Career Women of Achievement (Chicago), 1993
- Cincinnati Arts Association, Trustee and Treasurer
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Advisory Board,
- Xavier University, Williams College of Business, Board of Executive Advisors
- CincyTech, Advisory Board
- Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, Board

YWCA Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship Recipient

**Amber Henderson, Western Hills Design and Technology High School**

- Plans to major in biology at Ohio State University
- Captain of Varsity Basketball team
- Current GPA: 3.4

Charlotte Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, Scholarship Recipient

**Ryan Byes, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College**

- Currently studying occupational therapy,
- Participates in the YWCA Employment Retention Program
- Plans to attend the University of Cincinnati to complete her Bachelor of Arts in Nursing

To interview an honoree, co-chair or YWCA President & CEO Charlene Ventura, contact Terry Rye-Eisele at 513-361-2126.

**Keynote Speaker Soledad O'Brien**  
**Anchor/ Special correspondent for CNN: Special Investigations Unit**

Soledad O'Brien is an anchor and special correspondent for CNN: Special Investigations Unit, reporting hour-long documentaries throughout the year and filming in-depth series on the most important ongoing and breaking news stories for all major CNN programs. O'Brien joined CNN in July 2003 as the co-anchor of the network's flagship morning program, American Morning, and distinguished herself by reporting from the scene on the transformational stories that broke on her watch. Her efforts following Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Phuket, Thailand, have earned her numerous awards and critical acclaim.

In 2007, O'Brien garnered a Gracie Allen Award for her reporting from Cyprus on the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict as well as her reports from the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. The NAACP honored O'Brien with its President's Award in recognition of her humanitarian efforts and journalistic excellence. O'Brien earned the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Award from the National Association of Minorities in Cable in 2006 and has received honorary degrees from Siena College and Mercy College.

She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. O'Brien is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in English and American literature.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Career Women of Achievement luncheon registration will begin at 11:30, the luncheon will begin promptly at 12:00 and end at 1:30. This year's emcee will be Kit Andrews.

The Salute to Career Women of Achievement is the single largest fundraiser for the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati, a 140-year-old organization. Proceeds from the event directly support the YWCA programs serving more than 30,000 women and their families community-wide. For more information about the YWCA, visit [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org).

The YWCA gratefully acknowledges the presenting sponsors of this year's Salute to Career Women of Achievement: The Procter & Gamble Company, and The Macy's Fund of the Federated Department Stores Foundation, and Platinum Sponsor, Fifth Third Bank.

###

