



**News from
Office of the Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2009**

Contact: Paul Rose
(510) 388-6721
pwrose@oaklandnet.com

**MAYOR DELLUMS ANNOUNCES WOMEN OF GREATNESS AWARDS
AT MODEL CITY SUMMIT ON WOMEN**

Oakland — Mayor Ron Dellums and Oakland’s First Lady Cynthia Dellums today announced the winners of the Women of Greatness Awards during the Ronald V. Dellums First Annual Model City Summit on Women at the Oakland Marriott. The awards recognize individual women for their exceptional contributions, especially within the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, and San Francisco.

Joining the mayor and first lady for the presentation were Keynote Speaker Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief for Essence Magazine, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Councilmember Jane Brunner, Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente, Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, representatives from PG and E, and Dr. Brenda Wade, from Heartline Productions and TV Host of Black Renaissance of KPIX-CBS 5/CW 44, as well as video addresses from U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, California First Lady Maria Shriver, and San Francisco First Lady Jennifer Siebel-Newsom.

“It is my honor to congratulate the recipients of the First Annual Women of Greatness Awards,” Mayor Dellums said. “Historically, the women of Oakland and the greater Bay Area have been great contributors to our society and it gives us great pleasure to present this award to honor the women that impact our lives on a daily basis.”

This year's winners of the Women of Greatness Awards are:

WOMAN OF GREATNESS AWARD:

Emilia Otero - Rising Sun Entrepreneurs, LLC

Emilia Otero has dedicated over 14 years to helping the Latino immigrant community of Oakland. Her efforts have led to the placement of hundreds of individual full time & permanent jobs, in addition to starting Oakland's first Day Labor Program. One of her greatest accomplishments has been to organize ACAF, the first Mobile Food Vendor Collaborative in the United States, right here in Oakland.

Shelley Hamilton, LCSW - Management Coordinator, Center for Child Protection, Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland

Shelley Hamilton's life work has been dedicated to the safety and security of our children and families through guidance and healing love. Over the course of her career, she has positively influenced the lives of many thousands of abused and neglected children and their families. Hamilton has created and directed innovative programs, which reach as far as to find resources to sustain families in dire poverty. Without these programs, there is no doubt that many of these children and families would have not survived the abuses they were enduring.

Diane Delucchi Goodhue – Philanthropist-Retired Teacher

Diane Delucchi Goodhue has been an instrumental player for the past thirty years in providing funds and leadership for local organizations dedicated to improving the human condition and enhancing the quality of life throughout Oakland. Prior to being a dedicated Philanthropist, and community leader, Delucchi Goodhue devoted her early life as a Teacher in the Oakland Unified School District, teaching severely handicapped children.

Farhana Huq - Founder of Creating Economic Opportunities for Women

In 2000, Farhana Huq founded CEO Women at the age of 24 with very little money, in effort to address the unique needs of immigrant and refugee women struggling to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society. CEO Women has served a 1,000 women in the Bay Area whereby helping children, families, and communities, thereby contributing positive social change and a brighter tomorrow.

Dr. Marguerite Wright - Senior Psychologist at the Center for the Vulnerable Child at Oakland Children's Hospital.

Dr. Wright is author of "I am Chocolate you're Vanilla: Raising Healthy Black and Bi-Racial Children in a race Conscious World." Dr. Wright is on the forefront of children's development in identity providing ground-breaking research on self-esteem and consciousness of race. She is a master of healing children souls, champion for children, and inter-racial harmony. She is on the front line in melting down barriers; opening the hearts; and minds.

Tovi Scruggs & Sharon Parker-Co-Founders of Academy & Community Science Center (ASA)

ASA Academy is a progressive school committed to creating self-sufficient, critically thinking, confident, and community minded students. Scruggs and Parker have established one of the very few African-American Science academies in California and the US. Scruggs and Parker have demonstrated an exhaustive commitment to the values that promote the spirit of collaboration within the community through numerous programs and culturally relevant learning experiences. ASA is on par to become a national model of excellence in educating youth of color.

Dana Harvey- Mandela Marketplace/ Environmental Justice Institute

As the Director of Mandela Market Place, Dana Harvey has supported the development of the Oakland Food Connection, Mandela Foods Cooperative, and Mayor's Commission on Aging Senior Market Booth Program. During her tenure as the Executive Director of Environmental

Justice Institute Harvey has advocated for change through education and collaboration building whereby receiving the first transportation grant ever awarded to the public health department.

Amana Harris - Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc.

Amana Harris conceived and created a program 13 years ago called ArtEsteem; an art, literacy, and social competence program which has utilized art to close the achievement gap and instilled children and youth of Oakland with core values that inspire and motivates them to be engaged in their own uplifting and academic excellence through the creative process.

Julie Castro-Abrams- CEO of Women's for Initiative for Self-Employment

Under Julie Castro-Abrams leadership, Women's for Initiative for Self-Employment has developed significant new services which have contributed to the economic growth of the Bay Area communities. Some of the many include the First Time Leaseholder Grant program in partnership with the city of San Francisco. While the impact of the Women's Initiative training, funding and support for individual women is profound. For every \$1 invested in Women's Initiative, \$30 is returned to the local economy as a result of women paying taxes, hiring others and leaving welfare system!

Vivian Chang - Asian Pacific Environmental Network

As a leader in Asian communities throughout the East Bay, Chang has excelled in her leadership in expanding environmental justice's scope to include land use and planning and affordable housing in Oakland's Chinatown. With over 12 years of experience with community organizing, campaign, and policy advocacy strategies, Chang's work exemplifies her commitment to Oakland's progressive values.

REGIONAL AWARD:

Gladys Meriweather-Jordan – Pioneer African American Teacher in Emeryville

Gladys Meriweather-Jordan was a pioneer educator in Emeryville as the First African American Woman to teach at the Emeryville High School beginning in 1960 and in the year of 1974 she was recognized as "Teacher of The Year". She was a trendsetter, innovator and motivator in always encouraging the students to reach and attain their academic potential to the fullest. Meriweather-Jordan also has distinguished herself as the only African American woman on The African American Library and Museum Board of Directors where she is credited with innumerable contributions and unparalleled efforts in the development and culmination of the Museum.

SPECIAL HONOR:

C. Diane Howell, PhD. Posthumously

Through her profession as a clinical psychologist and work in various social and political circles Dr. Howell realized the need to better promote African-American business in the San Francisco Bay Area and Oakland. With amazing foresight she created the first Black Business Listings, and remained at the helm for twenty years. A social entrepreneur and political power broker in her

own right , Dr. Howell restructured the Black Expo to a community niche event to include the annual African American in Excellence in Business Awards and Sponsorship Gala to benefit the non-profit organization SEEDS (Self Empowerment Through Education, Entrepreneurship and Dreams). Dr. Howell has left an everlasting impression on the city of Oakland.

Each award winner was nominated by another Bay Area individual. Selections were finalized by the Women's Summit Committee. Today's event was sponsored by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Get Screened Oakland, Kaiser Permanente, COMCAST, Eli Lilly and Company, Citibank, CLOROX, California State Automobile Association, United States Office of Women's Health, KBLX, KPIX, Oakland Magazine, Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women, Alameda County Waste Management, Alta Bates Medical Center, BWOP/TILE, Carol H. Williams Advertising Agency, Children's Hospital and Research Center, Eden Medical Center, East Bay Community Foundation, Law Offices of Meyers/Nave, Neil and Diane Goodhue, Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, OBDC – Small Business Finance, OneCalifornia Bank, Red Bull Energy Drink, and others.

#

www.ci.nyc.ny.us