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## **Leadership That Inspires**

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#### About Inspire

The 8th annual Inspire: Celebrating Women's Leadership Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Each year, the event honors outstanding women in 12 different categories. These women are recognized for their inspiring professional achievements and their dedication to making the Lincoln community a great place to live and work.

This year's recipients were selected from more than 200 nominations submitted by the public. The Inspire Advisory Board chose five finalists for each category, and named one as the overall winner for the category. Read more about these special women who are making an impact - award winners, finalists and nominees are featured on pages 2-28.



Celebrating women's leadership

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#### 2022 Inspire Woman of the Year



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#### Angie Muhleisen President & CEO Union Bank & Trust

Angie Muhleisen serves as President and CEO of Union Bank & Trust. UBT is a privately owned bank headquartered in Lincoln that offers complete banking, lending, investment, and trust services to communities across Nebraska and in the Kansas City metro area, with combined bank and trust assets over \$50 billion. In her role, Angie is responsible for the bank's culture, company growth, financial performance, and succession planning.

Angie often says that "the bank's success is due to the simple philosophy of caring about each other, our customers, and our community." With 1,000 compassionate, community-minded associates on staff, this philosophy is demonstrated in the way associates treat each other and their customers like family, and give of their time, talent, and treasure to the communities we serve. A key element in developing this caring approach is promoting a healthy work/ life balance. Associates are encouraged to make life outside of work their highest priority, and many of our associates tell us that having time for faith, family, and friends is what allows them to achieve that work/life balance. As CEO, Angie is dedicated to the bank's associates

and truly believes that they are the most important component of the bank's success.

A native Nebraskan, Angie earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Avila University in Kansas City, MO. She currently serves on the Board of Directors at Assurity Inc., as chair-elect of the University of Nebraska Foundation, and as chair of the Union Bank Board of Directors. Previously, Angie served on several boards, including Lincoln Chamber of Commerce (past chair), Nebraska Wesleyan University Board of Governors, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital (past chair), Bryan College of Health Sciences (past chair), UNL College of Business Administration Advisory Board (past chair), Lied Center for the Performing Arts Statewide Board, the Catholic Foundation Board of Directors, and the UNMC Chancellor's Board of Counselors.

#### Woman of the Year Finalists



**Connie Duncan**Nebraska Children and Families
Foundation, LPS Board of Education

Connie Duncan has spent most of her adult life contributing to the Lincoln community. She started her career as a special education teacher, and now works part time for Nebraska Children and Families as vice president of philanthropy. Connie is serving her eighth year on the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education and serves as president of the board for two nonprofits, Humanities Nebraska and Stand For Schools. Her latest endeavor is working with the Cultural Centers of Lincoln on a new collaborative project. Connie says she is dedicated to making Lincoln a community where all people can have the same quality of life.



**Dr. Marilyn Moore**Retired, Lincoln Public Schools

A lifelong educator, Marilyn Moore taught middle school students in Lincoln Public Schools, and went on to serve the district as associate superintendent for 25 years. Upon retirement from LPS, she served as the president of Bryan College of Health Sciences for four years. Marilyn has enjoyed the opportunities to learn about and contribute to the community through service on many boards, including the Food Bank of Lincoln, the Lincoln Community Foundation, the Community Health Endowment, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Bryan Medical Center, and History Nebraska. She enjoys reading, cooking, baseball, adventure travel, and walking her neighborhood.



Dr. Vann Price
Lincoln Public Schools

Dr. Vann Price is the director of equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as the human resources supervisor for secondary personnel, for Lincoln Public Schools. Her professional journey began at the elementary level as a teacher and team leader, and she went on to become the associate principal and then principal of North Star High School. Dr. Price helped to open three brand new schools during her career with LPS, and has also served as an adjunct professor at Doane College. She currently serves, or has served, on the EducationQuest Advisory, Food Bank of Lincoln, YMCA, Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, and Lincoln Community Foundation Trustee boards.



Dannette R. Smith

Nebraska Department of Health
and Human Services

Dannette R. Smith was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Nebraska in February of 2019. Smith has been a catalyst for creating innovative programmatic and technological solutions and to improving the operational structure of DHHS. Smith serves on the Council of State Governments as Co-Chair of the Human Services Task Force Subcommittee, on the board of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), and has recently been selected for the Milbank Foundation Fellowship.

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#### Excellence in Business (large)



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WINNER

**Donna** Gould Monolith

Donna Gould is the information technology director at Monolith, where she is responsible for infrastructure, applications and ERP. She said she is passionate about team building and is currently enjoying growing the people and technology from the ground up at a startup. Increasing the number of women and diversity in STEM fields is a focus of her volunteer work, including being one of the early members of the WAM/Women at Monolith employee resource group. Donna is also currently serving on the board of directors for both Leadership Lincoln and Turbine Flats, as well as on the LPS Community Advisory Council.





**Angie** Muhleisen Union Bank &



Lindsey Reinke



Jill **Smith** Union Bank &



Sue Wilkinson

**Ameritas** 

Angie Muhleisen serves as president and CEO of Union Bank & Trust. She says the bank's success is due to the simple philosophy of caring about each other, the customers, and the community. This philosophy is demonstrated in the way associates treat each other and their customers like family, and give of their time, talents and treasures to the communities they serve. Angle is dedicated to the bank's associates and promotes a healthy work/life balance. A native Nebraskan, Angie currently serves on the board of directors at Assurity Inc., as chair-elect of the University of Nebraska Foundation, and as chair of the Union Bank Board of

Lindsey Reinke is one of the owners of John Henry's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, a local company her parents started in 1996. She has been working with the company for over 19 years in various areas. Her latest achievement was establishing a culture committee at John Henry's that supports the community and focuses on culture within the organization. Outside of her passion for the community and the John Henry's team, Lindsey said she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and house projects. She has been married to her husband, Joe, for 14 years and they have two boys, Declan and Brantley.

As assistant vice president of community outreach at Union Bank & Trust, Jill Smith leads several community-focused initiatives for the bank, including The Big Give, Magic Moments, and UBT's charitable giving efforts. She has also created and implemented financial literacy and outreach loan programs within the bank. Jill's passion for supporting the community extends beyond the bank walls. In 2013, she founded EventLNK, a nonprofit dedicated to providing education and resources to professionals in the local event industry. She also serves on the board of directors for Child Advocacy Center and volunteers for multiple organizations alongside her daughter, Kiah.

As executive vice president-chief financial officer and treasurer of Ameritas, Sue Wilkinson oversees accounting and finance, corporate actuarial, risk and compliance, human resources, information technology and transformation. Because she believes deeply in giving back, Sue serves on numerous boards and advisory committees among Lincoln's institutions of education, business, faith and community service. Her professional recognitions include the Nebraska Society of CPA's 2020 Outstanding CPA in Business & Industry Award, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln School of Accountancy Hall of Fame 2017, and the Nebraska Alumni Association Young Alumni Achievement Award 2008. Sue and her husband Bert have two children, Chelsea and Jake.

#### Here's to you!

You've distinguished yourselves as our mentors, our leaders, and our innovators. Through your vision, talent and guidance, our community can achieve its full potential.

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#### Excellence in Business (small/medium)



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UBT

Union Bank & Trust

WINNER

Katherine

Warren

Kidglov

Katherine Warren is the chief operating officer at KidGlov. Her culture-first leadership approach has helped KidGlov to be a four-time Best Places to Work award winner. She said her love for community wellbeing runs as deep as her love of marketing. A certified yoga and meditation teacher, Katherine founded Lincoln's largest free outdoor yoga series, PLAY. This year, she launched a blog, Balance and Rise, dedicated to sharing tips she has learned on her journey to mental and physical wellness and building a balanced work culture. Katherine has volunteered with Domesti-Pups, CEDARS, Lincoln Arts Council, Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center and March of Dimes.



Emily Goodman Sounding Board Mental Health



Tara Paulson

Rembolt Ludtke



Tamara Sloan

The Mill



Christine Weeks

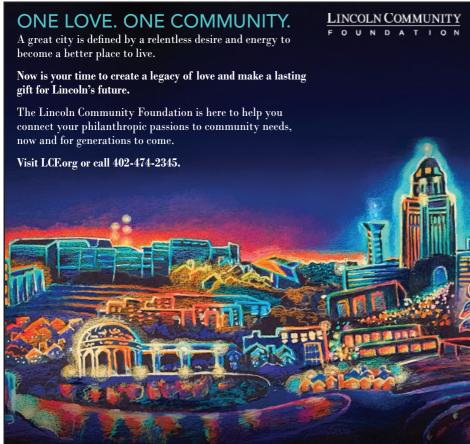
Eleanor Creative

Emily Goodman, LIMHP, LADC, PMH-C, co-founded Sounding Board Mental Health in 2020, a practice that focuses on holistic, inclusive and equitable services for the community. She has provided mental health services for women and children in Lincoln since 2015, and has been certified in maternal mental health and affiliated with Postpartum Support International (PSI) since April 2020. In December 2021, Emily signed the official papers to form a local chapter of Postpartum Support International, PSI-NE, and serves as the organization's president and chair. The local chapter is dedicated to the education, training and support of maternal mental health needs across the state.

In 2021 Tara Paulson was elected as the chief executive officer of Rembolt Ludtke LLP, a role that allows her to serve her fellow team members by implementing and executing the firm's strategic vision, employee engagement, and growth strategy. In addition to her CEO responsibilities, Tara continues to serve the firm's clients, using her expertise in employment and labor law to resolve workplace disputes and, when needed, serve as a workplace investigator. Tara and her husband Matt have two daughters, Paige and Brooke.

As a co-owner of The Mill Coffee & Tea, Tamara Sloan acts as the CEO: directing, hiring, and developing the vision for the organization. During her time at The Mill, it has more than doubled in size and she has had the opportunity to impact the lives of hundreds of young staff, helping them learn and develop as they prepare for their adult careers. Tamara said she loves interacting with and supporting innumerable nonprofits and community groups through collaborations with The Mill, whose giving focus is on arts and education but extends to many other areas as well.

As the CEO and founder of Eleanor Creative, a brand experience agency, Christine Weeks has been creating compassionate brand experiences for over 14 years. She has led the rebrands for Bluestem Health, Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, Inpatient Physician Associates, Crossroads GPS, District 177 and more. Christine is also the owner and publisher of Lincoln Kids Magazine and the 55+ Magazine. She is leading the way for women in the workplace, offering paid maternity leave, home help for working mothers, and customized benefits to support her team in unique ways. Christine is a member of Rotary 14, and serves on the Lincoln Haymarket and the Mary Riepma Ross boards.







#### Congratulations

Inspire nominees, finalists, and award winners.

A special congratulations to our own Dena Noe, VP of Member Experience. Finalist for the Excellence in Philanthropy Award.





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#### Excellence in Education





WINNER Dr. Vann

Lincoln Public Schools

Dr. Vann Price is the director of equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as the human resources supervisor for secondary personnel, for Lincoln Public Schools. Her professional journey began at the elementary level as a teacher and team leader, and she went on to become the associate principal and then principal of North Star High School. Dr. Price helped to open three brand new schools during her career with LPS, and has also served as an adjunct professor at Doane College. She currently serves, or has served, on the EducationQuest Advisory, Food Bank of Lincoln, YMCA, Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, and Lincoln Community Foundation Trustee boards.



Dr. Toni Jensen Nebraska Wesleyan University



Lara Kibler Yankee Hill Education Center/LPS



Dr. Shari R. Veil University of Nebraska - Lincoln



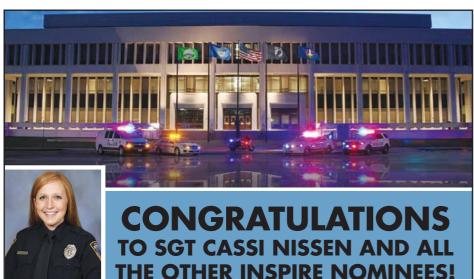
Kate Wilcox Everett Elementary School

Dr. Toni Jensen is an associate professor of social work at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she also serves as chair of the social work department and program director for the newly launched Master of Social Work program. As only the second of such programs in the state, Toni is working with her faculty to expand Nebraska's capacity to provide behavioral and mental health services across the state. She has been a vital part of NWU's efforts toward developing and accrediting the program. Toni also serves on the board of directors for the Poverty Impact Network, working to address hygiene poverty in the Lincoln area.

Lara Hawthorne Kibler is an English teacher and restorative practices coordinator at Yankee Hill Education Center, an LPS special education program that serves high school students. She says that every day she invests her passion for equity and building relationships into this role. Lara is also the founder and principal director of Saint NICU, a charity that delivers care packages to neonatal intensive care unit families over the holidays. She loves coffee, rescuing animals, yacht rock, and her family.

Dr. Shari Veil is a professor and dean of the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Guided by the mission to nurture curious and creative minds to thrive in the ever-changing media and communication professions, Dean Veil helped launch the Experience Lab where students gain hands-on experience working in one of the college's media outlets or agencies. The inclusive "do from day one" experience is rooted in hard work, collaborative problem-solving and the ethical pursuit of truth to uphold democracy. She and her husband Nick have two kids, Carson and Hailey.

Kate Wilcox is a teacher at Kooser Elementary and over the past 12 years has taught English language learners in Lincoln and abroad. She has been involved with the teachers union both locally and nationally, and is an advocate for multiculturalism and inclusion within LPS as an equity liaison for the district. Also an advocate for children in foster care, Kate is a former foster, now adoptive, mother. She volunteers with the youth group at Christ Place Church, co-leads a small group for single mothers, and is an artist who has participated in events like First Friday and the citywide charity art projects.



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## ttl/ee.

Congratulations to all the **Inspire Award Winners** and nominees.

Thank you for all you do for our community.





Maddie Davis '22
Elementary education major
w/ early childhood endorsement

"My professors in the education program have gone above and beyond to make sure that I was fully prepared for the real world. They taught me how to be a professional and a leader, how to handle adversity, and even **grew my passion for teaching** which I didn't know was possible."



#### Excellence in Entrepreneurship



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WINNER **Miriah** 

Zajic

Giving Realty

In 2019, Miriah Zajic co-founded Giving Realty. The organization has a unique business plan 10% of commissions on each transaction is given to a nonprofit of the client's choice. Miriah was born and raised in Nebraska and then spent nearly a decade living away from the state. When she returned, she wanted to use the skills she had cultivated throughout her career to create a business that focuses not only on helping clients, but also giving back to the community. Miriah serves as the broker for Giving Realty and has earned her green designation, which reflects her commitment to sustainability and resource efficiency.





Jenni Bruning Brown

Fly Fitness



Brooke Mullen

Sapahn



Alicia Reisinger

Wax Buffalo



Kim Zwiener Sell State Empire Realty

Dr. Jenni Bruning Brown is the founder and CEO of Fly Fitness. With a background in fitness and a doctorate from Stanford University, her experience and education led her on a unique path centered around a non-competitive, positive environment for fitness and exercise. Her philosophy in life and at Fly Fitness is to "make everyone feel like a someone." As a sport and performance psychologist for the University of Nebraska Athletic Department for over 10 years, she worked with all levels of athletes. Dr. Bruning Brown has been featured in publications such as GQ, The Baltimore Sun, Harper's Bazaar and The Boston Globe

A self-taught designer, Brooke Mullen lived in Thailand for 10 years and launched Sapahn in 2010 while pursuing a master's degree in human rights and traveling to places many do not gain access to. She started designing to help female artisans reach new audiences and opportunities. Each piece is made to balance the purity, integrity, skill, and artisanship of their female artisans. Brooke said she is steadfast in showing the fashion industry that a focus on human rights is the pathway toward alleviating many vulnerabilities of exploitation. Businesses, even fashion brands, can be a force for creating a world where the human rights of all are upheld and respected.

Alicia Reisinger is the founder and creative director of Wax Buffalo. She started Wax Buffalo in her kitchen with \$100 and a late-night work ethic to pour candles while her children slept. She grew what was once a side hustle, into a million-dollar plus business with 14 employees and global sales. Alicia says she is passionate about igniting change in the arena of working women, specifically working mothers. Her approach to working differently aims to create a movement where women feel supported to challenge the status quo of when and how to work.

Kim Zwiener is owner of Sellstate Empire Realty, the largest 100% womenowned real estate company in Lincoln, and owner of Ozark Empire Realty in central Missouri. In addition to overseeing two offices and personally servicing clients, she has been very much involved in volunteer leadership. Her accomplishments and roles include, National Association of Realtors (NAR) Leadership Academy graduate, chair of the NAR Safety Advisory Committee, president of the Realtors Association of Lincoln, and chair of a NAR workgroup that addresses unique safety concerns for realtors of color. She looks forward to continuing to build her client base—clients who often become friends.







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WINNER **Pam Dingman** 

Lancaster County

Pam Dingman owned a private engineering consulting firm prior to becoming the first woman in Nebraska to be elected County Engineer. During her 30 year career as a Civil Engineer, Ms. Dingman has been a champion for diversity in engineering and has been a role model and mentor to many. Dingman is a single mother of two adult sons and has worked countless volunteer hours for many local and national organizations.



Sara Hoyle City of Lincoln and Lancaster County



Dr. Zainab Rida NE Dept of Education



**Blanca Ramirez-**Salazar

Bryan Health



Dannette R. Smith NE Dept of Health and Human Services

Sara Hoyle is the director of human services for the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. She has spent her career serving the community in the field of human services, coordinating victim services in corrections and facilitating juvenile services for Lancaster Čounty. In Sara's current role, she works with nonprofit agencies and administers services in juvenile justice and general

In 2018, Dr. Zainab Rida was appointed as an equity officer to lead the strategic development and implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion at the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Born in Iraq and raised in Iran and Syria, Dr. Rida's passion focuses on child education and health in the areas where underserved, minority and low socioeconomic populations exists. Her professional practices approach is directed toward the whole school to address every child's needs. Dr. Rida has also supported education through her work as a former adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Southeast Community College and Northeast Community College.

Blanca Ramirez-Salazar spent 20 years working in state and federal government focusing on civil rights, public health planning with tribal communities, and the 2010 and 2020 censuses. Blanca says she loves being a connector of people, ideas and organizations. Having gone through the immigrant experience herself, she is committed to ensuring that the perspectives of underrepresented populations, like immigrants, refugees and communities of color, are considered during decision-making processes at all levels. Blanca is currently a community relations coordinator at Bryan Health.

Dannette R. Smith was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Nebraska in February of 2019. Smith has been a catalyst for creating innovative programmatic and technological solutions and to improving the operational structure of DHHS. Smith serves on the Council of State Governments as Co-Chair of the Human Services Task Force Subcommittee, on the board of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), and has recently been selected for the Milbank Foundation Fellowship.

#### Congratulations Inspire Nominees of 2022!









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#### **Founders**



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WINNER Ellie Hiser

**Books for Babies** 

Ellie Hiser is a sophomore at Lincoln East High School. She has always loved reading and when she learned that not all children have books in their homes, she had an idea for the Books for Babies program. The program provides every newborn in Lincoln hospitals with a new book and educational material. Through a team effort between Bryan Health, CHI St. Elizabeth, the Lincoln libraries and the Community Health Endowment, Books for Babies is helping every child born in Lincoln to receive a head start toward literacy. Ellie is also a member of Lincoln East's student council, speech team and swim team, and a member of Leadership Lincoln.



Vanessa Collins Project Future/ Miles of Smiles



**Erica** Courtney Startups UNL and Women+



Dr. Feifei **Jiang** JF International Music Academy



Allison Walbrecht

Vanessa Collins owns and operates Miles of Smiles and Project Future child development centers in Lincoln. She believes in treating staff, as well as the children cared for at the centers, like family. Vanessa strives to make prices affordable for all enrolled families, and assists with the cost of diapers and wipes. She said she enjoys supporting local businesses and nonprofits, and adopting families in need during the holidays-so others can feel the spirit of Christmas.

Erica Courtney is a senior associate at NMotion powered by gener8tor, a nationally ranked venture capital firm and startup accelerator. She graduated from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a Bachelor of Journalism in August 2022. Prior to graduation, Erica served as an executive member and co-founder of two UNL student entrepreneurship organizations, StartupsUNL and Women+ in Entrepreneurship. Erica said she is passionate about empowering and supporting women and members of the LGBTQ+ communities on their entrepreneurial

Dr. Feifei Jiang is the founder and director of the JF International Music Academy (JFIMA) in Lincoln. She is also an adjunct piano professor in the music department at Doane University, a voice coach at Nebraska Wesleyan University, and a National Certified Teacher of Music in Piano (NCTM). As a music educator, Dr. Jiang's piano students have achieved first place in the American Protégé International Piano Competition, gaining invitations to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022). As a pianist, Dr. Jiang has appeared in concert throughout the United States, Mexico and China, and has received numerous awards.

Following a diagnosis of Tourette's syndrome and an introduction to the unified movement, Allison Walbrecht decided to combine her passions for unified and agriculture. She founded Unified Showing, a non-profit dedicated to empowering youth with disabilities through the education and showing of livestock, with the aid of a buddy. Through the organization she hopes not only to open agriculture up to a larger community, but also to showcase the amazing, capable and hardworking people within the disabled community. Allison is currently a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln studying animal science. She looks forward to growing Unified Showing and agriculture.



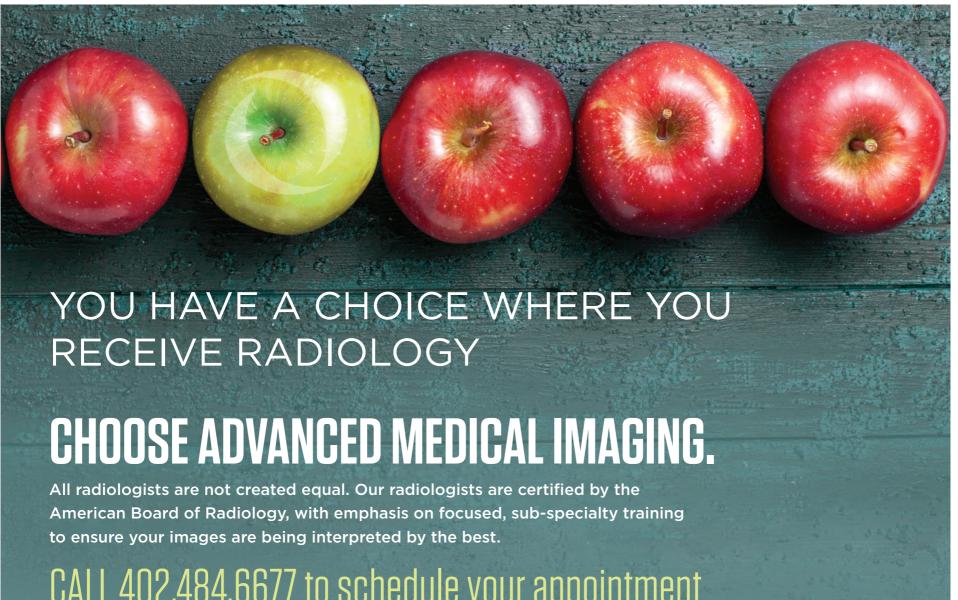
#### Congratulations to all the Inspire Nominees!



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#### Excellence in Healthcare





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WINNER **Shannon Schultz** 

Nebraska LTC Pharmacy

Shannon started Nebraska LTC Pharmacy ten years ago when she saw the impact that a smaller, independently owned pharmacy can make in the lives of her community. When the COVID pandemic began, Shannon felt driven to ensure that every patient was able to access a vaccine and worked around the clock to make sure they were accessible. Her business has grown to two locations with six employees as patients are drawn to her unique level of care and commitment to the community.





**Patty Evans** 

Bryan Health



Joselyn Hayes

Bryan Health



Mary Jo Tietjen

Bryan Health



Lisa Vail

Bryan Health

Patty Evans RN, BSN-BC, is the manager of employee health at Bryan Medical Center. She has been a registered nurse for over 40 years, working in a wide variety of settings and areas. For the past six years she has worked in employee health, and most recently helped guide the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic. Patty says keeping employees as safe as possible is the goal of employee health, and she considers herself very fortunate to work with a great team in an outstanding organization. Spending time with family is a priority for her and her husband, Roger.

Joselyn Hayes is an oncology social worker with the cancer program at Bryan Health. In her role, she provides support to patients with cancer and their families by helping to reduce stress, cope with emotions related to diagnosis, understand social security/disability/insurance benefits, and apply for assistance programs. Joselyn has been a social worker for 25 years and has worked in a variety of settings. She holds a bachelor's in social work, a master's in teaching, and will be pursuing her master's in social work this fall at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Outside of work, Joselyn enjoys spending time with her family, going for walks and bike riding.

Mary Jo Tietjen recently retired from Bryan Medical Center after 40 years in various nursing leadership roles. In her latest role, she led the nursing support team, and prior to that she worked in the oncology and outpatient areas. Mary Jo enjoyed the challenges of patient care, developing staff, and building relationships with colleagues. Her plans for this new chapter include, traveling with her husband, Dalton, enjoying family and friends, continuing to be active in church, volunteering, and exploring new opportunities.

Lisa Vail, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, is the vice president of patient care services and system chief nursing officer for Bryan Health. During her time at Bryan, Lisa has led the growth of inpatient capacity, adding 100 operational overnight beds and essential staff—allowing Bryan to better serve the health care needs of the community. She has also served as the key clinical leader coordinating Bryan Medical Center's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of her career. Lisa and her husband, Mark, sponsor nursing scholarships for entry into practice and advanced nursing degrees.

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#### Excellence in Nonprofit



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WINNER

Lori Seibel

Community Health Endowment

Lori Seibel has worked alongside Lincoln's nonprofit community for more than 20 years as the president and CEO of the Community Health Endowment (CHE). She has been part of many transformative projects and says she loves Lincoln's passion for addressing tough problems with creative solutions and compassionate resolve. Lori's goal has always been that CHE will make Lincoln better and healthier for all who live here.



Shannon Crellin The Lincoln Tree of Hope



**Barbara Zach** Lee Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra



Gail **McNair** Foundation for Lincoln Club #14. City Libraries



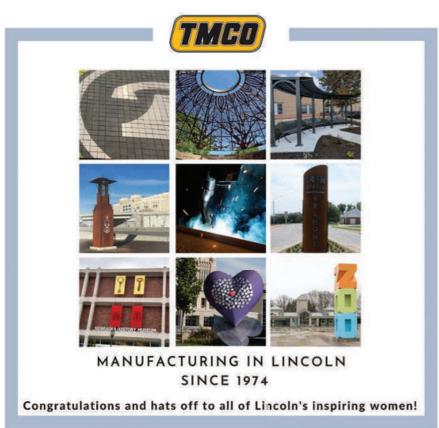
**Amy Pappas** People's City Mission

Shannon Crellin is the president and founder of Lincoln Tree of Hope, a human services nonprofit dedicated to assisting community members in their times of need. A full-time student at Southeast Community College, Shannon will graduate in December 2022 with a degree in human services along with a certification in drug and alcohol counseling. She is married to Daniel, and mother to Angelina, Brandon and Gavin.

Barbara Zach Lee is executive director of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. She joined the orchestra staff in 2001 as operations/personnel manager and music librarian, handling all details of concert production. In 2005 she became executive director, and has guided Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra through a time of artistic growth and audience expansion. Barbara has served as chairman of the downtown Rotary music committee, vice president of membership for Nebraskans for the Arts, treasurer of Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival, and on the Parking Advisory Council. She is an alumnus of Leadership Lincoln, a member of the Lincoln Arts Council and Lincoln's Young Professionals Group, and a volunteer for TeamMates Mentoring.

Gail McNair is the executive director for the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries. She has spent her entire career serving nonprofits and has had the privilege of collaborating with hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly to support local libraries, the arts and the community, helping to ensure a quality of life for Lincoln's citizens. Gail has served on the Lincoln Electric System, Junior League and Westminster Presbyterian Church boards. She is currently on the board of the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra and is a member of Lincoln Rotary

For the past six years, Amy Pappas has served as chief operating officer for the People's City Mission. She started at PCM in 2009 as the volunteer services director and held several other positions before becoming COO. Amy is the secretary-treasurer for the Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association, a community board member of the Lincoln-Lancaster Chaplaincy Corps, and a lifetime member of Girl Scouts. She periodically volunteers with friends, especially for projects related to girls and women. Outside of work, Amy enjoys spending time with her family and friends, working in her yard, and repurposing "one person's trash into another person's treasure."



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#### Connie **Duncan**

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, LPS Board of Education

Connie Duncan has spent most of her adult life contributing to the Lincoln community. She started her career as a special education teacher, and now works part time for Nebraska Children and Families as vice president of philanthropy. Connie is serving her eighth year on the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education and serves as president of the board for two nonprofits, Humanities Nebraska and Stand For Schools. Her latest endeavor is working with the Cultural Centers of Lincoln on a new collaborative project. Connie says she is dedicated to making Lincoln a community where all people can have the same quality of life.



Cathy Martinez Autism Family Network



Dr. Marilyn Moore Retired, Lincoln Public Schools



Dena Noe Federal Credit Union



**Tidball** 

Giving Realty

Cathy Martinez has owned and operated an in-home daycare center in northeast Lincoln for 30 years. When her son received an autism diagnosis in 2005, she began advocating for individuals with special needs. Autism Family Network gave Cathy the opportunity to feel productive and purposeful—by making positive changes for the disability community. Since 2008, she has served as president of the AFN Board and as an Autism Speaks Nebraska Ambassador. Her recognitions include, Autism Speaks National Advocate of the Year 2014, The Arc of Lincoln Advocate of the Year 2016, The Arc of Nebraska Advocate of the Year 2017 and LJS Nonprofit Excellence Award 2019.

A lifelong educator, Marilyn Moore taught middle school students in Lincoln Public Schools, and went on to serve the district as associate superintendent for 25 years. Upon retirement from LPS, she served as the president of Bryan College of Health Sciences for four years. Marilyn has enjoyed the opportunities to learn about and contribute to the community through service on many boards, including the Food Bank of Lincoln, the Lincoln Community Foundation, the Community Health Endowment, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Bryan Medical Center, and History Nebraska. She enjoys reading, cooking, baseball, adventure travel, and walking her neighborhood.

Dena Noe is the vice president of member experience at the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union. She has a Bachelor of Journalism degree in advertising and a master's degree in marketing, communications and advertising from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Dena supports the community through volunteering and fundraising. Along with the work she does at the credit union, she also serves as a sports director for the Cornhusker State Games and is the past president of the Great Plains Trails Network Board of Directors where she University of Nebraska chairs two fundraisers, Trail Trek and Lincoln Trail-A-Thon. Dena also serves on the Lancaster County Extension Board.

> Josie Tidball is an owner and realtor at Giving Realty, a boutique real estate company. The brokerage's mission is to be a catalyst for good in the local community by donating 10% of all commissions to local nonprofits of their clients' choice. Josie is a volunteer with the Food Bank of Lincoln and a foster for the Capital Humane Society, and her company stocks the Little Free Pantry daily. She has previously volunteered for the Gathering Place, The Cat House, Community Action/Head Start and TeamMates Mentoring. Josie says she is passionate about serving her community and strives to show this on a daily basis.



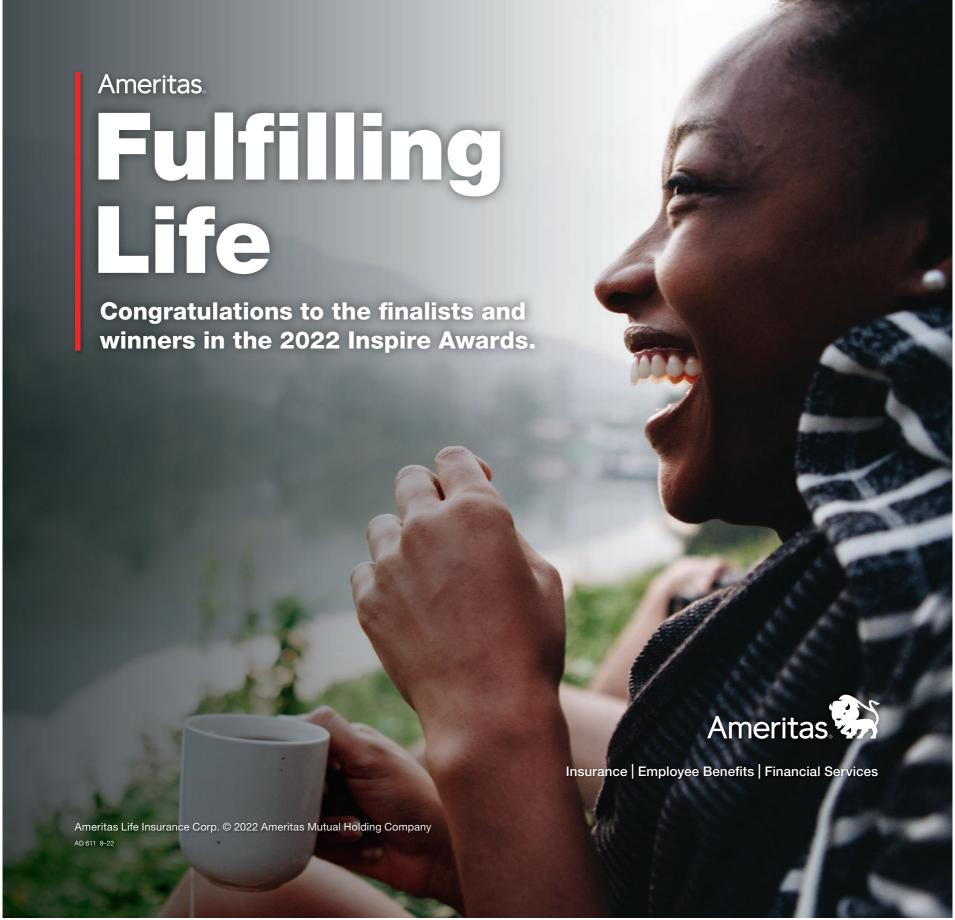
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#### Young Leader





WINNER

#### **Taylor** Streich

Lincoln Southeast High School

Taylor Streich is a senior at Lincoln Southeast High School, where she participates in varsity cheer and track, serves as president of the LSE Business Club, and is a member of StartupsUNL. She is also a founder of Open Coffee Youth, a nonprofit startup incubator for youth to network and share their ideas. This summer, Taylor volunteered with Red Thread and the Nebraska Safety Council to create a drive safe campaign. Taylor says she is passionate about serving the community and helping those around her.





Dulce Garcia University of Nebraska Lincoln



Bhagyalakshmi **Pushkaran** 

University of Nebraská Lincoln



Hattie **Vyhilidal** Lincoln East High School Graduate



**Ashton Wyrick** 

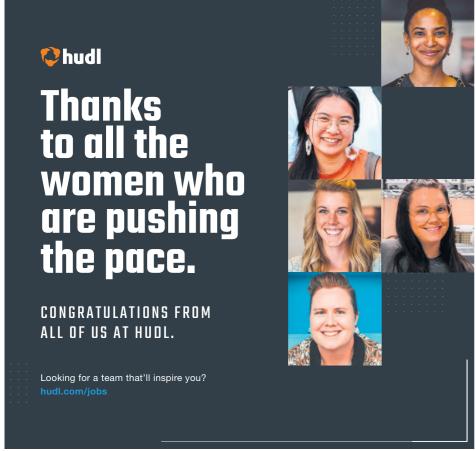
Bryan Health

Dulce Isabel Garcia is a senior at UNL, studying advertising, public relations and journalism. As the president of Define American, an organization focused on advocacy and education for the undocumented, immigrant and refugee communities, she has led efforts to fundraise for a scholarship offering financial assistance to UNL students who may be ineligible for financial aid due to their immigration status. Additionally, she co-founded the Combs Honors Scholars to help students of color find community and to foster inclusive excellence in honors. Dulce served as the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues intern, and is a member of the Campus Life and Safety Committee.

Bhagya Pushkaran is double-majoring in political science and mathematics, with a minor in agricultural leadership, education and communication. On campus, Bhagya is involved in the Innocents Society, University Honors Program, NHRI Leadership Mentoring, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color, and ACTivate College Success Bootcamp. She formerly served as the diversity, equity and inclusion committee co-chair for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. In the Lincoln community, Bhagya is involved with the Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation Board of Directors, the Indian Association of Nebraska-Lincoln, and is a peer mentor and tutor for local students.

Hattie Vyhlidal graduated from Lincoln East High School in May of 2022. During high school, she was involved in Youth Leadership Lincoln, served as the president of Key Club, and founded the Lincoln East Feminist Club. She is currently a freshman at the University of Alabama studying political science with minors in race and gender studies, and Spanish. Hattie is grateful for the time and guidance that inspiring women have invested in her, particularly two teachers at Lincoln East—Ms. Dutton and Dr. Staples-Farmer. She looks forward to continuing her involvement and leadership development on campus in Alabama.

Ashton Wyrick is the assistant director of government & community relations for Bryan Health. She promotes the health system's efforts in policy, advocacy, health equity, and community partnerships. She earned her undergraduate degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University, and a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Administration from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is passionate about the community and ensuring all who live here can thrive. Serving as a TeamMates mentor since 2013 and welcoming her daughter, Margot, in September of 2021, her passion for Lincoln and empowering the women leaders of tomorrow has only grown.





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WINNER Alaa Ismail

University of Nebraska -Lincoln

Alaa Ismail is a freshman at UNL majoring in global studies and computer science, with minors in Arabic and French. She graduated from Lincoln High School in May of 2022, where she served as a state executive officer for the Nebraska Association of Student Councils and president of the Lincoln NAACP Youth Council, and cofounded the From Me, To You mentorship program. Alaa is currently a program staff member at the Campbell Elementary School Community Learning Center, and a member of the Youth Leadership Lincoln Curriculum Committee. She said she is passionate about serving the school and community through leadership, service, and advocating for racial and social justice.



**Kaylee** Denker Lincoln East High School



Morgan Fine Nebraska Heart Institute



Jocelyn Garcia Gutierrez Lincoln Southeast High School



Harless Doane University

Kaylee Denker is a senior at Lincoln East High School, where she is a member of the basketball and track teams, and Key Club. Kaylee also serves as leader of the East Equity Team, and has a role on the LPS District Equity Cadre. She said the East Hope Squad and National Hope Squad Council, both suicide prevention organizations, are close to her heart. Kaylee is one of 36 members from across the nation who were selected for the national squad, and the only member from Nebraska. She plans to study elementary/special education at Bellevue University after graduation.

Morgan Fine is a nursing student at Bryan College of Health Sciences, and works as a student nurse technician at Nébraska Heart Hospital and as a coteacher at World of Knowledge. She is a 2022 graduate of Lincoln Southwest High School, where she was a member of National Honor Society and participated in unified bowling and unified P.E. Morgan's passion for others has led her to volunteer with the youth program at Horizons United Methodist Church, Autism Family Network, People's City Mission, and Camp High Hopes.

Jocelyn Garcia Gutierrez was raised in Lincoln and is a freshman at UNL. She graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School where she participated in several activities, including Student Ambassadors, Feminist Club and Leadership Cadre, and served as the secretary for Equity Cadre. Equity Cadre aims at creating a more equitable environment in classrooms and throughout school for students. Jocelyn said she is a strong supporter and advocate for equity, and plans to double major in English and Spanish and attend law school. Her dream is to become a juvenile justice attorney, impacting the lives of teenagers and helping to create a more equitable justice system.

Allison Harless is a senior at Doane University with a double major in accounting and business administration, and an accounting intern at Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. As a member of the Phi Sigma Tau sorority, Allison participates in service projects such as highway cleanups, food drives and fundraisers that support the community. She said service has always been important to her, and she is thankful to be part of a group that shares the same values. Allison plans to pursue a master's degree and a career in the accounting field, with hopes of being an executive someday.

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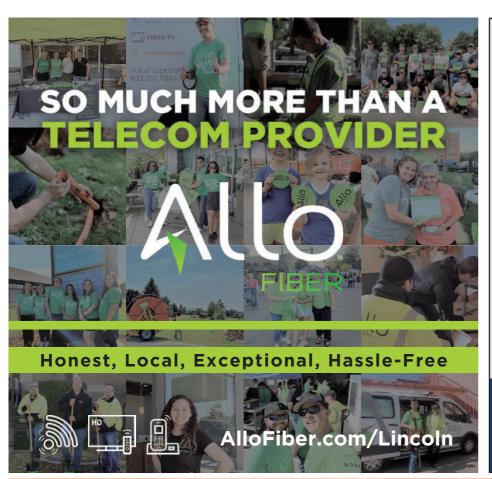
Emily Goodman\* Donna Gould\* Gwyneth Gray Jocelyn Garcia Gutierrez\* Staci Haas Allison Harless\* Sharon Harms Joselyn Hayes\* Lori Hiebner Fllie Hiser\* Carly Horstman Sara Hoyle\* Rachel Hruza Alaa Ismail\* ReAnne Isom Dr. Toni Jensen\* Dr. Feifei Jiang\* Janet L. Johnson Kellie Johnson Lara Kibler\* Amy King Angela Klasek Amy Kloefkorn Jacki Kment Janet Koerner Marcia Kushner Sunny Lambert Julia Lantz Barbara Zach Lee\* Karen McGivney Liechti Rylie Lindhurst Itzeni Nayeli Lopez Pat Lopez, RN, MSN

Codie Luedke Jalavah Madlock Cathy Martinez\* Alexandra McKinnon Gail McNair\* Lynne McNally Dr. Dana Miller Dr. Marilyn Moore\* Dr. Sheree Moser Angie Muhleisen\* Brooke Mullen\* Cassandra Nissen Dena Noe\* Avery Olson Allison O'Neil Amy Pappas\* Kasey Parker Tara Paulson\* Grace Pearson Ann Post Dr. Vann Price\* Bhaqyalakshmi Pushkaran\* Blanca Ramirez-Salazar\* Cathryne Pozye Jayne Rasmussen-Lane Lindsey Reinke\* Alicia Reisinger\* Dr. Zainab Rida\* Maryam Al Rubaye Nicole Ruskamp Marisa Schaffer Shannon Schultz\* Lori Seibel\*

Tamara Sloan\* Dannette R. Smith\* Jill Smith\* Jackeline Sproul Mary Ann Stallings Lindsay Stanley Taylor Streich\* Lori Thomas Josie Tidball\* Mary Jo Tietjen\* Ashton Troyer Lydia Turner Mary Turner Lisa Vail DNP, RN, NEA-BC\* Shari R. Veil, MBA, Ph.D.\* Madisen Vogeler Hattie Vyhlidal\* Allison Walbrecht\* Katherine Warren\* Christine Weeks\* Kate Wilcox\* Sue Wilkinson\* Jennifer Williams Frin Wirth Ashton Wyrick\* Deborah Wyrrick Miriah Zajic\* Brooke 7immerman Kim 7wiener\*

\*Denotes finalists

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to this year's winners and thank you to all of the women who contribute to business in Lincoln.

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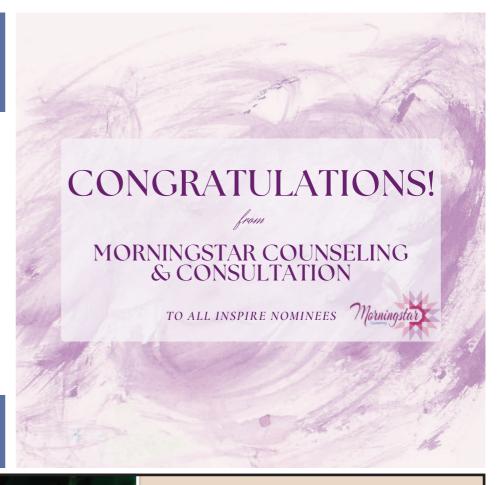
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