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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**25 Prominent Women and 1 Young Woman to Be Honored at the annual  
Women of Achievement Awards on March 13th, 2019**

*Cribs for Kids to host the 14th annual Women of Achievement Awards in celebration of Women's  
History Month in Pittsburgh*

PITTSBURGH, PA – March 3rd, 2019 – The 14th annual Women of Achievement Awards will recognize and honor 25 distinguished women and one young woman for their efforts and accomplishments within their professional fields and communities. This event celebrates Women's History Month in Pittsburgh and highlights the outstanding accomplishments of successful, prominent women from the region.

This year the Women of Achievement event will feature a new accolade, the National Junior Woman of Achievement Award. This Award will honor Isabella Chavez, 16, founder of Cribs Without Borders which provides safe sleeping environments to less fortunate newborns across all borders. She raises the funds necessary to purchase and deliver cribs to families in need in Mexico.

The 2019 awards will also honor the life and incredible career of Laura Ditka who passed away in 2018. Laura dedicated her life to public service, law enforcement, and supporting victims. Her memory will be honored with the introduction of the Laura Ditka Award for Advocacy and Service. Each year at this event, this honor will be bestowed upon a woman that has dedicated her time to advocating for women and children.

“We are honored to recognize all of these renowned women who are changing their communities and Pittsburgh. Their work and efforts are inspiring to all those who encounter them, and we thank them for all they have accomplished. We would also like to thank the volunteers, staff, sponsors, attendees and all those who have helped make this event possible,” said Judith A.

Bannon, Founder and Executive Director of Cribs for Kids.

The awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, from 6:00 -9:00 pm at The Omni William Penn Hotel Grand Ballroom. In addition to the awards ceremony, the event will feature a networking cocktail hour, a sit down dinner, and a silent auction. This year's Women of Achievement Awards title sponsors are Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield together with Allegheny Health Network. Additional sponsors include UPMC, the Pittsburgh Pirates, The Maya Organization, Beyond Spots and Dots, Nextier Bank, and Centimark. Tickets are available at <https://cribsforkids.org/woa/>. All proceeds from the awards ceremony will benefit Cribs for Kids.

**2019 Distinguished Honorees Include:**

- Dr. Lisa M. Abel-Palmieri, Ph.D.: Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania
- Heather Abraham: KDKA TV
- Rosemary C. Crawford: Crawford McDonald, LLC
- LaRae Danielle Cullens: Dream2S.T.E.A.M, A Child's Place Inc., Wright Childcare Solutions
- Kierra Falbo, MPO: Orthotics Resident at the University of Michigan
- Susan Fancsali: USA Ambassador Ms. Pennsylvania
- Renee DeMichiei Farrow: Architectural Innovations
- Anissa Gilbert: PNC Bank
- Claire Guth: University of Pittsburgh Manufacturing Assistance Center
- Dr. Karen Hall, MSOL, Ed.D: ESPN3 Sports Broadcasting Company
- Sarah Homitsky, MD: Allegheny Health Network
- Magdeline Jensen: Retired, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh
- Katharine Kelleman: Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Heather Lyke: University of Pittsburgh Athletics
- Christina Orr Magulick: Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP
- Lauren McLean: The Still Remembered Project
- Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki, Ph.D.: Community College of Allegheny County
- Pamela Pitell: Don Parker Sales Inc
- Christine Ree: Township of Moon
- Diane Scabilloni: First National Bank
- Dana Slizik: Dana Ann Slizik Consulting
- Victoria Snyder, M.Ed, MSLP: Ya Momz House, Inc., Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K., OpticVoices
- Grainne Trainor: Blue North Restaurant
- Tomilyn Ward LPC, MPC, NCC: MAYA Organization
- Antonia Whitehead M.S.Ed.: Holy Family Institute

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**About the Women of Achievement Awards** - Founded in 2002 by Bonnie DeCarlo and JoAnn Forrester, the Women of Achievement Awards is an event honoring Western Pennsylvania's

most outstanding women who have demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of their communities, excellence in their professional fields or outstanding accomplishments for the advancement of women. The annual awards ceremony raises funds for Cribs for Kids.

**About Cribs for Kids** - Cribs for Kids is a national infant safe-sleep education program that helps to reduce the risk of injury and death of infants due to accidental suffocation, asphyxia, or undetermined causes in unsafe sleeping environments. Since 1998, Cribs for Kids has been making an impact on reducing the rate of infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep and providing portable cribs to families who otherwise cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, Cribs for Kids currently has more than 1400 partners throughout the United States implementing infant safe-sleep programs in their communities.

Visit <https://cribsforkids.org/> for more information.

*Note to editors: For more information, news and perspectives from Cribs for Kids, journalists and analysts may call 412-322-5680, ext.117. Web links, telephone numbers, and titles were correct at time of publication but may have changed.*

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