Introducing the 2023 IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Award winners

Dec 20, 2022, 10:00am EST

The honorees of the fourth annual IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Awards stand out as champions of diversity and inclusion in their workplaces and in the community.

The awards are presented by Buffalo Business First, along with platinum sponsors M&T Bank and Phillips Lytle LLP.

Twenty people and five organizations were chosen from about 100 nominations and will be honored at a dinner Feb. 15 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

While diversity represents demographic differences such as race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and disability, inclusion means a feeling of belonging and how well employees are valued, respected, accepted and encouraged to participate in an organization.

For information on the awards event, click here.
The following people are being honored:

Karen Brim, clinical pharmacist, Independent Health
LuAnne Brown, CEO, Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network
Sarah Dance, grants administrator, HSBC Bank USA
Wafa Dubashi, ADA/EOO/DBE program coordinator, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
Lenora Foote-Beavers, judge, Buffalo City Court/ acting judge, NYS Unified Court System-Erie County Family Court
Andrea Griffa Harden, director of human resources, Buffalo AKG Art Museum
Romunda Harris-Fonville, vice president, business systems analyst V, M&T Bank
Kristin Heltman-Weiss, president, Providence Farm Collective
Rita Hubbard-Robinson, associate director, UB Center for Health Equity Research Institute/CEO, Neuwater & Associates LLC
David Johnson, senior director of college prep & Diversity, Equity & Inclusion coordinator, Buffalo Prep
Alicia Kohlhagen, director of mental health, Evergreen Health
Lindsay Masters, director of academic support and engagement, Daemen University
Oluwole McFoy, general manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority
Curtis Robbins, senior director, social impact, WNY Impact Investment Fund
Daniel Robertson, program manager for Breaking Barriers, Say Yes Buffalo
Bradford Watts, associate vice president of community relations and DE, People Inc.
Rev. Chris Wylie (DJ Pastor Rock), founder, Rolling Nation Network
Sasha Yerkovich, executive director, Canopy of Neighbors

The following organizations are being honored:

Buffalo String Works
Catholic Health
Girl Scouts of Western New York
Irish Classical Theatre Company
WNY Independent Living Center

Michelle Cioci Adams
Managing Editor

Buffalo Business First