NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

ywca

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS
NOVEMBER 5 | 5:00 PM

MARCH 11, 2027 | 6:00 PM | YWCA of Lubbock | 6501 University Ave.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

2027 YWCA WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

ORIGINAL FORM AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 5, 2026 TO:

Women of Excellence Selection Committee
YWCA of Lubbock
6501 University Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79413
If you have questions, or need help with the nomination form, please contact Glenda Mathis at 806-776-9746 or via e-mail at glenda.mathis@ywcalubbock.org

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS

ELIGIBILITY	Nominees must be women age 18 or older who have been residents of Lubbock or worked in Lubbock during the past year. A nominee may be resubmitted; however, previous recipients are not eligible.
CRITERIA	The nominee should be a woman who has achieved excellence in her career or profession in at least one category of achievement listed below. (Career or profession is interpreted to mean paid employment in her field.) Evaluations will be based on the **quality** of a candidate's achievements rather than the **quantity** of information submitted. Please attach only the information requested on the form. Do not send scrapbooks or large amounts of materials. Information will not be returned.
JUDGES	Selections will be made by the 2027 YWCA Women of Excellence Selection Committee, an anonymous and diverse group appointed from the community.
DEADLINE	Nomination forms must be submitted to the YWCA of Lubbock, 6501 University Ave., Lubbock, TX 79413, on or before 5 p.m. on November 5, 2026.Contact Glenda Mathis at 806-776-9746 with questions.
EVENT	The awards event – **March 11, 2027**. Visit ywcalubbock.org for ticket information.

SAMPLE CATEGORIES OF ACHIEVEMENT

(Careers or professions are not limited to the examples listed below.)

ARTS AND CULTURE	Including, but not limited to, the creative arts (artists, sculptors, etc.), the performing arts (musicians, singers, actresses, dancers, etc.), and literary arts (authors, writers, poets, etc.).
EDUCATION AND RELIGION	Including, but not limited to, higher educators and administrators, primary and secondary educators and administrators, and ministers, chaplains, and education directors from any religious background.
GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES	Including, but not limited to, professionals in local, state, or federal government, politics, government services, human services, and criminal justice.
SCIENCE AND MEDICINE	Including, but not limited to, research scientists, inventors, engineers, environmentalists, architects, and health professionals.
BUSINESS	Including, but not limited to, business owners, financiers, and entrepreneurs.
PROFESSIONAL	Including, but not limited to, attorneys, accountants, and bankers.
MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDER	Including, but not limited to, military, police, fire, and paramedic workers.

NOTE: *At the discretion of the Selection Committee, an award may be presented in a category of achievement other than those listed above, or an award may not be presented in every category.*

Please do not bind or staple application materials.

What Makes a Strong Women of Excellence Nomination

A strong nomination packet is essential to the selection process. The committee can only evaluate the information submitted. Detailed, thoughtful responses help reviewers understand the nominee's accomplishments, leadership, impact, and unique contributions to the community. Comprehensive nominations give deserving candidates the best opportunity to be fully and fairly considered for a Women of Excellence award.

1 **SUBMIT COMPLETE & ACCURATE INFORMATION**

Allows the Selection Committee to evaluate the nominee based on complete and accurate information.

2 **FOCUS ON THE NOMINEE'S MERITS**

Helps distinguish the nominee from other highly qualified candidates.

3 **HIGHLIGHT IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS**

Provides evidence of impact, leadership, service, and achievement. Strengthens the committee's ability to make fair and informed decisions.

4 **SHOWCASE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Demonstrates the significance of accomplishments, not just the activities performed.

5 **DOCUMENT MEASURABLE RESULTS**

Highlights tangible outcomes and community impact through specific examples and evidence

6 **PROVIDE CONTEXT & INFLUENCE**

Gives reviewers the context needed to understand the scope and influence of the nominee's work.

7 **COMMUNICATE CLEARLY & SPECIFICALLY**

Ensures accomplishments are clearly communicated and not left to assumption.

8 **MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY THROUGHOUT THE NOMINATION**

Showcases the nominee's unique contributions of what sets her apart. Tells the story behind the achievements, awards, and recognition

9 **TELL A COMPELLING LEADERSHIP STORY**

Helps reviewers understand both the quality and consistency of the nominee's efforts.

10 **PRIORITIZE THE STRONGEST EXAMPLES**

Creates a complete picture of the nominee's leadership journey.

11 **ENSURE A THOROUGH SUBMISSION**

Reduces the risk of an outstanding candidate being overlooked due to incomplete information.

12 **PRESENT THE NOMINEE AT THEIR BEST**

Preserves the nominee's accomplishments in a professional and organized format.Ensures the nominee receives the strongest possible consideration for recognition

Thank You for Your 2027 Nomination!

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

2027 YWCA WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION FROM

ORIGINAL FORM AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 5, 2026

WHEN COMPLETING YOUR NOMINATION PACKAGE, PLEASE PROVIDE:

Specific and detailed information as possible. Explain **why her accomplishments matter.**

Paint a clear picture of her impact, leadership, and community involvement. **What is different or better because of her?**

Share results whenever possible, such as people served, programs created, funds raised, organizations impacted, or years of service.

Include a timeframe. When did the work occur, and how long has she been involved? This helps reviewers understand both longevity and consistency.

Highlight contributions that may not be obvious from her resume, title, or professional accomplishments.

Explain what sets her apart. What makes her leadership, service, or approach especially meaningful or distinctive?

Thoughtful, concise descriptions and measurable examples help ensure each nominee is fully and fairly represented.

Give context to honors or recognition. Instead of simply listing awards, explain why an award is significant and what she did to earn it.

Avoid assuming the selection committee knows the organization, program, award, or community initiative being referenced. Provide enough background for an outside reviewer to understand its significance.

Help the committee understand not only what she has accomplished, but why those accomplishments are exceptional and what may not have happened without her leadership.

NOTE: All nominations will be held for a two-year period. If your nominee is not selected this year, her nomination will automatically be considered again next year.

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2027 YWCA WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION FROM

How did you hear about the YWCA Women of Excellence?

☐ Email ☐ Mail ☐ Other _____

Print or Type (please use N/A if not applicable)

Name of Nominee _____
First Middle Maiden Last

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone _____ E-mail _____
Business Home Cell

Partner/Significant other/Spouse's Name _____

Children's Names _____

Nominator Information

Nominator _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone _____ E-mail _____
Business Cell

Person Completing Form _____
Name Title Phone

Are you submitting as a business or organization. ☐ Yes No
If no, list two other individuals to support the nomination.

1.

_____
Name (Print) Signature E-mail Address

_____
Address City State Zip Business Phone Cell Phone

2.

_____
Name (Print) Signature E-mail Address

_____
Address City State Zip Business Phone Cell Phone

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NOTE: Using the criteria outlined in the Guidelines for Nominations, please respond to each of the following narrative questions. Responses may be up to two (2) pages per question, excluding letters of support and the nominee's résumé.

NARRATIVE

1. Describe how your nominee exemplifies excellence in her life and her career.
2. How does nominee inspire others through her work, ideas, and example?
3. Has nominee impacted her field locally or in a broader perspective and how?
4. How does nominee demonstrate creativity and innovation?
5. Why do you believe nominee deserves to be recognized as a Women of Excellence?

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

This section is used to support our narrative on each candidate. Please provide as much detail as you have available.

- Family info (place of birth, etc.)
- Education
- Special accomplishments
- Hobbies or special interests

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Letters of support (maximum 3).
- Attach a copy of the nominee's resume (optional).

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WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE ACADEMY
1989 – 2026

2026 Women of Excellence

Cicely Alexander	Education
Kathleen Burrell	Social Services
Paige Fletcher	Law Enforcement
Stacy Keith	Arts & Culture
Amanda Key-Braster	Music
Velma Ruth Shambeck	Education
Sarah Wakefield	Medicine
Tammy Williams	Healthcare
Brinkley Coker	Youth Leadership

2025 Women of Excellence

Sarah Bevers	Business
Annie Chalex Boyle	Music
Kelly Criswell	Government
Rhonda Dillard	Education
Nedra Hotchkins	Health & Medicine
Lindsey Maestri	Arts & Culture
Chibuzo O'Suoji, MD	Health Education
Dr. Raegan Higgins Siwatu	Science & Research
Amarachi Uche-Eboh	Youth Leadership

2024 Women of Excellence

Janelle Barrington-Spivey	Arts & Culture
Ruth Robillard	Business
Nancy Ruth Neal	Medicine
Misty Lynn Rieber	Education
Shelia Patterson Harris	Government
Pamela Roddy	Human Services
Julie Doss	Professional
Jeye Johnson	Youth Leadership
Amanda Mead	Jane Burns Award Mary
Betsy Bass	Nell Strong Award

2023 Women of Excellence

Emily Wilkinson	Arts & Culture
Lisa Stane	Education
Olivia Boggs	Government
Traci Cheek	Human Services
Jessica Gray, MD	Medicine
Murvat Musa	Professional
Megan Estrada	Social Justice
Gabriella Contreras	Youth Leadership
Nanette Deso	Jane Burns Award

2022 Women of Excellence

Sandra Harris	Arts & Culture
Beth Bridges	Business
Janice Magness	Education
Comfort Awotwi Pratt, PhD	Education
Katherine Wells	Government
Dina Jeffries	Human Services
Elizabeth Sharp	Social Justice
Ashby Whitaker	Youth Leadership
Lynn Sanderson	Jane Burns Award
Melinda Pharies	Mary NellStrong Award

2021 Women of Excellence

Elizabeth Regner Grigsby	Arts & Culture
Stephanie Massengale	Business
Dr. Patricia Francis-Johnson	Education
Norma Ritz Johnson	Government
Katelynn Thompson	Human Services
Dr. Amy Thompson	Medicine
Laura Monroe	Professional
Glenda Grigson	Religion
Grace Feist	Youth Leadership

2020 Women of Excellence

Wendy-Adele Humphrey	Education
Jaime Wheeler	Human Services
Judge Kara Darnell	Government
Shirley McReynolds	Medicine
Michelle McCord	Professional
Paige Allen	Religion
Sellie Shine	Social Justice
Sophie Goforth	Youth Leadership
Latrelle Bright Joy	Mary Nell Strong Award

2019 Women of Excellence

Melissa Collier	Business
JoAnn Long, Ph.D.	Education
Karen Thornton	Education
Annette Sobel, MD	Government
Rebecca Geist	Medicine
Brandi Cantrell	Religion
Lisaann Gittner, Ph.D.	Science
Melinda Garcia Schalow, MD	Social Justice
Terri Duncan	Mary Nell Strong Award
Gabriella Ghandour	Youth Leadership

2018 Women of Excellence

Jean Caslin	Arts & Culture
Linda Ferguson	Business
Linda Donahue, Ph.D.	Education
Rebecca (Becky) Garza	Government
Lindsay Penrose, Ph.D.	Medicine
Carolyn F. Moore	Professional
Shanna Hargrave	Religion
Dr. Katharine Hayhoe	Science
Aliza S. Wong, Ph.D.	Social Justice
Kathy Gilbreath	Mary Nell Strong Award
Emilee Acevedo	Youth Leadership

2017 Women of Excellence

Michelle Kraft	Arts & Culture
Phebe Ellis-Roach	Business
Anna Jackson	Education
Judge Ann-Marie Carruth	Government
Sharmila Dissanaike	Medicine
Kim Flenniken	Professional
Candace Bourland Hicks	Science
Evelyn Davies	Mary Nell Strong Award
Madeleine Lipetska	Youth Leadership

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2016 Women of Excellence

Janie Bush	Arts & Culture
Monica Hightower	Business
Abigail Crawford	Education (Classroom Impact)
Berta Fogerson	Education (Administration)
Karen Gibson	Government
Ann Manning	Professional
Emily Lemley	Religion
Linda Greenstreet	Jane Burns Award
Sandi Turner	MaryNeilStrongCommunityServ.
Rhosean Asmah	Youth Leadership

2015 Women of Excellence

Amy Faris	Arts & Culture
Suzanna Blake	Business
Dr. Lisa S. Leach	Education
Drue Farmer	Government
Lynda Loyce Dutton	Human Services
Dr. Mimi Zumwalt	Medicine
Michelle Pantoya PhD	Science
Betty Shewbert Dottos	Mary Nell Strong Award
Michelle Suzanne Staley	Youth Leadership Award
Gail Spivey	Jane Burns Award

2014 Women of Excellence

Alona Beesinger	Business
Aretha Marbly PhD	Education
Carolyn Simpson	Human Services
Dr. Ariwan Rakvit	Medicine
Laura Vinson	Professional
Holly Betenbough	Religion
Carolyn Perry	Science
Alejandra Estrada	Youth Leadership
Lorrie Lushnat Bellair	Mary Nell Strong Award

2013 Women of Excellence

Mary Jones Saathoff,Ph.D.	Arts & Culture
Nita Kiesling	Business
Karen K. Garza	Education
Marguerite Fallon, D.N.P., R.N.	Medicine
Nancy Tucker Sharp	Professional
Sindee L. Simon, Ph.D.	Science
Neoka Perez	Special Achievement
Kristen Michelle Alcorte	Youth Leadership
Carolyn Taylor	Mary Nell Strong Award

2012 Women of Excellence

Terri Caldwell	Arts & Culture
Diannah Tatum	Business
Narissra Punyanunt-Carter	Education
Merinda K. Condra	Human Services
Lori Rice Spearman, Ph.D.	Medicine
Emily Ratcliff	Professional
Louisa Hope-Weeks, Ph.D.	Science
Michaela Hardin	Youth Leadership
*Christie Devitt	Mary Nell Strong Award

2011 Women of Excellence

Yvonne Racz Key	Arts&Culture
Aimee C. Doane	Business
Dr. Kitty Harris Wilkes	Education & Religion
Beth Lawson	Government & Human Serv.
Dr. Kelly Overley	Professional
Kamlesh Varma, M.D.	Science & Medicine
Kay Cross	Special Award
Sarah Jo Lambert	Youth Leadership

2010 Women of Excellence

Bonnie J. Aycock	Arts&Culture
Billie J. Caviel	Business
Grace Hernandez	Education & Religion
Nancy M. Koenig	Government
Vickie Russell	Human Services
Mary Crites	Professional
Dr. Betsy Goebel Jones	Science & Medicine
Sharon Hyde Bass	Special Achievement
Jade Shank	Youth Leadership

2009 Women of Excellence

Louise Hopkins Underwood	Arts&Culture
Margarita Olivárez	Business
Mitzi Ziegner	Education & Religion
Catherine Lee Pope	Government & Human Serv.
Christina Esperat, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N.	Medicine
Stacie George	Professional
Melinda Corwin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP	Science
Sally Kipyego	Special Achievement
Jennifer McGrew	Youth Leadership

2008 Women of Excellence

LaWanda SherrodMurfee	Arts & Culture
SuzAnn Moore Kirby	Business
Linda M. Brice, Ph.D.	Education
Maria Elena Quintanilla	Government
Kay Holder Sanford	Human Services
Sharyn Ivory	Medicine
Melisa Tatum Roberts	Professional
Pamela A. Eibeck	Science
Allison Rae Korinek	Youth Leadership

2007 Women of Excellence

Beth Pratt	Arts & Culture
Jan Thetford	Business
Kathryn Kinnison Rollo	Education
Adrienne Cozart	Government
Kathy Stocco	Human Services
Beena Variyam	Professional
Cindy Jumper, M.D.	Science & Medicine
*Mary Nell Strong	Jane O. Burns, Ph.D.
Nicole Mitchell	YWCA YouthLeadership

2006 Women of Excellence

Margaret Yirka Vugrin	Arts & Culture
Linda Gaither	Business
Linda Crawford Hoover, Ph.D.	Education
Vernita Woods-Holmes	Government & Human Services
Judith Henry, Ed.D.	Professional
Karen Baggerly, MSN, R.N.	Science & Medicine
Rosa Hernandez Sheets, Ph.D.	Special Achievement
Marie Pfarr	Youth Leadership

2005 Women of Excellence

*Conny McDonald Martin(Mrs.C.B.)	Arts&Culture
Margaret Williams	Business
Nettie Edwards	Education & Religion
Danette Castle	Government & Human Serv.
Renee Bergenheier Underwood Patti	Professional
J. Patterson, MD	Science & Medicine
Susan Ford Wiltshire, Ph.D.	Special Achievement
Sara Ellen McCunniff	Youth Leadership

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2004 Women of Excellence

Lugene Lane Pickering	Arts & Culture
Geneva B. Boren	Business
Marilyn Phelan, J.D.	Education
Elma S. Moreno	Government
Gloria Snell Galey	Human Services
Sara Stalcup McKee	Professional
Marianna Shubov, Ph.D.	Science
Katie Megan Akeroyd	Youth Leadership

2003 Women of Excellence

Toni Arnett	Art
Margaret Brannon-Randle, M.Ed.	Education
Trudy Putteet	Government & Human Serv.
Mary Jeanne van Appledorn, Ph.D.	Music
Suzanne Adams Beck, M.D.	Professional
Rev. Stephanie Schreiner Nash	Religion
Alexia E. Green, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N.	Science & Medicine
Sharon Young Prather	Special Achievement
Ashley Marie Cartwright	Youth Leadership

2002 Women of Excellence

Tina Fuentes	Arts & Culture
Kay Davis	Business
Lady Falls Brown, Ph. D.	Education
Ione Heartsill	Government & Human Services
Connie Wharton	Professional
Donna Bacchi, M.D., M.P.H.	Science & Medicine
Joe Love Stogner Nelson	Special Achievement
Alana K. Noble	Youth Leadership

2001 Women of Excellence

Pat Maines	Arts&Culture
Maxine Willingham	Business
Janie Landin Ramirez	Education & Religion
Judge Judy Parker	Government
Linda Suzan Lazarin Thomas	Human Services
Dr. Myrna L. Armstrong	Science & Medicine
Mayor Windy Sitton	Special Achievement
Lauren Griffin	Youth Leadership

2000 Women of Excellence

Jean Bledsoe Knight	Business
JoAnn Leavey Shroyer, Ph.D.	Education
Carolyn R. McDougal	Entrepreneur
Shari Dorris Flynn	Government & Human Services
Jane Ann Tustin, R.N., M.S.N., C.S.N.	Medicine
Brenda J. Becknell	Professional
Sunanda Mitra, Ph.D.	Science
Brooke Chavez	Youth Leadership

1999 Women of Excellence

Judy Wells Chisholm	Business
Jan Berry Morris	Education
Patsy Landrum Whipple	Government & Human Serv.
Catherine A. Ronaghan, M.D., F.A.C.S.	Medicine
Elizabeth Valentine Abraham	Religion
Beverly Chilton, Ph.D.	Science
Burnis Marie Henderson	Special Achievement
Meghan Paige Fleming	Youth Leadership

1998 Women of Excellence

Peggy Willis-Aarnio	Arts & Culture
Diane Brown Earl	Business
Dorothy Phea-Norville	Education & Religion
Leigh Keeney McPhaul	Government & Human Services
Annette Gary, R.N. Ph.D	Medicine
Francina Johanna Proctor	Religion
Caryl E. Heintz, Ph.D.	Science
Reagan Elyse Davis	Youth Leadership

1997 Women of Excellence

Ruth Jane Holmes, Ph.D.	Arts & Culture
Phyllis Sullivan Jones	Business
Sherry Sancibrian	Education
Kathy Volanty, Ph.D.	Government & Human Serv.
Irasema Velasquez	Professional
Marisue Pounders Smith	Religion
Jitra Subpamongkol Anuras, M.D.	Science & Medicine
Christy Michele Badgwell	Youth Leadership

1996 Women of Excellence

Karin Crider McCay	Arts&Culture
Nancy Jo Patton	Business
Jane O. Burns, Ph.D.	Education & Religion
Paula Davis Lanehart, Judge	Government & Human Services
Patricia S. Yoder Wise, R.N., Ed.D	Medicine
Paulina M. Jacobo, J.D.	Professional
Cassandra L. Henry	Science
Holli Nicole Douglass	Youth Leadership

1995 Women of Excellence

*Billie Wolfe	Arts & Culture
*Betty Baker	Business
Tammy D. Barnes Fedynick	Education & Religion
Louise T. Cummins	Government & Human Services
Louise Willson Arnold	Professional
Marian K. Solowy Myers, M.D.	Science & Medicine
*Norma E. Porres, M.D.	Special Achievement
Shaili M. Khandheria	Youth Leadership

1994 Women of Excellence

Suzanne Aker	Arts&Culture
Lou Dunn Diekemper	Business
Jane L. Winer, Ph.D.	Education & Religion
Gwendolyn Titus	Government & Human Services
*Nelda Thompson	Professional
Irene S. Wilson, R.N., M.Ed.	Science & Medicine
Sheryl Swoopes	Special Achievement
Monica Baca	Youth Leadership

1993 Women of Excellence

Sylvia Ashby	Arts&Culture
Mary Tom Riley O'Bar, Ed.D.	Education & Religion
*Rita P. Harmon	Government
*Barbara L. Sommerville	Human Services
Sandra Sabatini, Ph.D., M.D.	Medicine
Susan Singer Hendrick, Ph.D.	Science
*Louise C. Allen	Special Achievement
Katherine Anne Lucas	Youth Leadership

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1992 Women of Excellence

*Elizabeth Skidmore Sasser, Ph.D.	Arts&Culture
*Margaret Talkington	Business
*Sister Maureen Van der Zee, C.S.J.	Education & Religion
Carolyn Lanier	Government & Human Services
*Marjorie C. Kastman	Professional
Mary Grace Umlauf, R.N., Ph.D.	Science & Medicine
Marsha Sharp	Special Achievement
Kirsten Storin Doty	Youth Leadership

1991 Women of Excellence

*Betty J. Savage Mills	Arts & Culture
*Virginia M. Sowell, Ph.D.	Education
Rev. Jo Roberts Mann	Religion
Sylvia A. Martinez-Flores	Government
Jane F. Goldthorn, M.D.	Medicine
Melanie Weed Barnes	Science
Helen Wagner Willey	Special Achievement
Michelle Leslie Erickson	Youth Leadership

1990 Women of Excellence

Glenna Maxey Goodacre	Art—Special Award
*Palma Lancaster Smiley	Arts & Culture
Ethel M. McLeod	Business
Shirley Anne Naile McManigal, Ph.D.	Education & Religion
Yondell Masten, R.N.C., Ph.D.	Medicine
Eileen McAllister Johnson, Ph.D.	Science
Alicia Boswell	Youth Leadership

1989 Women of Excellence

Janeen Drew Gilliam	Arts&Culture
Elizabeth G. Haley, Ph.D.	Education & Religion
Marilyn Jantz Dickey	Government & Human Services
Elizabeth Creson Sisco, J.D.	Professional
Teddy L. Langford, R.N., Ph.D., C.N.A.A.	Science & Medicine
Kamie Ethridge	Special Achievement
Yumi Christina Koh	Youth Leadership