



Youngstown Business and Professional

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YOUNGSTOWN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN NAME LEAH MERRITT 2021 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Annual recognition honors local female leader who has excelled in her career and community

August 2, 2021, Youngstown, OH – The Board of the Youngstown Business and Professional Women is pleased to announce that it has selected YWCA Mahoning Valley President and CEO Leah Merritt as its 2021 Woman of the Year. Merritt will be recognized at the organization's annual National Business Women's Week® dinner on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at The Lake Club, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$55 per person and the public is welcome. Proceeds from the event fund college scholarships for Mahoning Valley women. For more information about YBPW or to make reservations for the Woman of the Year event, go to www.ybpw.org or email ybpwboard2@gmail.com.



Leah Merritt has served in many roles since joining the organization in 1994. Through the agency's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women, she focuses on equity and social justice. As President and CEO of YWCA Mahoning Valley since July of 2012, Merritt has worked to provide impactful services for women, families, and marginalized persons, especially those of color, emphasizing affordable housing. She also serves as a Board Member for the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown and chairs the budget committee as the past Treasurer. In addition, she is a Board member of the Warren Kiwanis, Co-Chair Elect for the Ohio Council of YWCAs, and a proud member of the Social Justice League.

YBPW has a long history of partnering with YWCA for various events. Its mission of educating and empowering women in the Valley often intersects with Merritt and her team's work. "Not only has Leah been a leader in our community with her work helping women and families, but also she's been an avid supporter of the work YBPW has done. We're so excited to be able to honor her as this year's Woman of the Year," states Rene Butler, YBPW President.

About National Business Women's Week® (NBWW) is a weeklong national celebration that highlights women's progress as professionals, business owners, and entrepreneurs. To recognize the achievements of American working women, the Business and Professional Women's Foundation celebrates National Business Women's Week® during the third week of October.

About Youngstown Business and Professional Women: YBPW was established in 1920 and is affiliated with the Ohio BPW and BPW Foundation. The goal of YBPW is to empower women personally, professionally, and politically. In addition, members strive toward the common goal of economic and workplace equity for working women. YBPW meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month and supports women's causes throughout Trumbull and Mahoning Counties.

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