

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 20, 2017

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YWCA of Greater Atlanta Wins 2017 Association Excellence Award

Atlanta, GA – Hundreds of CEOs, board, and staff from YWCA’s across the country gathered in Washington DC to recognize the winners of this year’s Association Excellence Awards. YWCAs were recognized for their efforts to advance their mission to eliminate racism and empower women. “YWCAs play a significant role in the lives of women and girls in communities across the country, through direct service, education, and advocacy,” said Casey Harden, interim CEO of YWCA USA. “We are so proud of YWCA Greater Atlanta for their outstanding efforts to achieve racial justice, advocate for policies that will advance girls and women, and provide programs and opportunities to empower women. In doing so, these YWCAs empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities.”

The YWCA of Greater Atlanta won the YWCA Association Excellence Award for Advocacy for the [Georgia Women’s Policy Institute \(GWPI\)](#). GWPI is an innovative civic engagement program that teaches women from diverse backgrounds how to participate fully in state-level policy. GWPI Fellows meet over the course of one year for education, team building, and hands-on learning, as they work collaboratively on a real-world policy project that impacts the lives of women and girls in Georgia. GWPI ensures that women’s voices are heard on issues that affect them and brings women’s viewpoints to the forefront of policy debates. Now entering its sixth successful year, 80 leaders have graduated from the Institute who can navigate the public policy process with confidence as lifelong advocates.

“Receiving the Association Excellence Award in Advocacy validates the hard work that has gone into making this program a success. Helen Robinson, our Director of Advocacy, and the Georgia Women Policy Institute (GWPI) Fellows work tirelessly to change policy to help improve the lives of women and children in the State of Georgia,” said Sharmen Gowens, CEO of YWCA Atlanta. “This award simply propels us to work even harder.”

YWCA Atlanta accepted an Excellence Award alongside YWCA Rochester for its Racial Justice efforts and YWCA Brooklyn for its Women’s Empowerment program. The YWCA USA’s Bold Mission Bright Future Conference was sponsored by Allstate.

ABOUT THE YWCA OF GREATER ATLANTA

YWCA OF GREATER ATLANTA IS A LOCAL CHAPTER OF YWCA USA and has been a voice for change for women and families in Georgia since its founding at Spelman College in 1902. Our organization's foundation is built upon a history of mobilizing diverse groups of women leaders to identify community problems and advocate for solutions. To affect long-term change, YWCA of Greater Atlanta addresses the needs of women and girls at multiple levels, providing direct-services and programs in tandem with raising awareness and public policy analysis. By focusing on advocacy and social justice, health and safety, and education and economic empowerment, we work to improve the lives of women and girls and their families, and to create safer, healthier, more equitable communities in Georgia. Learn more: www.ywcaatlanta.org

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