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People & Places: 2018 Women of the Year/Pinnacle Awards announced

By James D. Watts Jr. Tulsa World Aug 6, 2017 ☐ 0





Ten women will be honored for their efforts to help create a better community at the 2018 Women of the Year-Pinnacle Awards.

The awards, a collaborative effort of the YWCA Tulsa and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, will be presented at a ceremony March 8 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 616 W. Seventh St.

This year's honorees, selected from more than 60 nominees are:

- **Premadonna Braddick**, executive director of Soaring Eagles Youth and Family Services and founder of Girls' Teen Summit
- **Deborah Hunter**, poet and champion for mental health
- **Kimberly Johnson**, CEO of the Tulsa City-County Library
- **Virginia Lewis**, champion for survivors of sexual abuse and advocate for legislative change.
- **Faatimah McLemore**, volunteer executive director for The Surayya Anne Foundation
- **Julie E. Miller-Cribbs**, MSW, Ph.D., community leader for students and professionals working to address health disparities, adverse childhood experiences and healthcare accessibility
- **Carola Munoz de Cote**, champion for equitable education in the Latina community



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- **Priya Raju**, mentor to young girls and director of Kripalaya Dance Academy
- **Renee Sites**, advocate for reducing barriers within the deaf community
- **Kim Teehee**, vice president of Government Relations for Cherokee Nation Businesses and director of Government Relations for Cherokee Nation

"We are so excited to honor this incredibly diverse group of women and highlight their uniquely successful approaches to standing up for social justice, helping families and strengthening communities," said Torii Ransome Freeman, interim CEO of YWCA Tulsa. "These women are creating real, sustainable change despite economic barriers currently at play within the state of Oklahoma."

Each honoree personifies the mission of YWCA – to eliminate racism and empower women – and upholds the legacy of the Pinnacle Awards, which is reflected in women who are role models in their professions, take risks on behalf of others, perform community service and advocate for women's issues.



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