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Novi Oaks Chapter of ABWA Honors Women of Achievement

Novi, MI. – The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) recently honored many women of achievement at the Night of the Stars Award Gala held at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt presented chapter founder and 45-year member Bettie Johnson with a letter of commendation for her dedication to the organization. "We are eternally grateful to Mayor Gatt for participating in our awards night," remarked Holly Hengstebeck, Vice President.

Kathy Crawford, Novi Oaks member and Oakland County Commissioner was the master of ceremonies for the evening. The chapter presented 6 members with Protégé Awards, which recognize the contributions of new members. "We are incredibly pleased to acknowledge so many new members for their efforts," noted Marcia Green, President.

Amanda Bernard, 2012 outright grant recipient, was acknowledged for her many accomplishments. Currently a junior at Grand Valley State University, majoring in Biomedical Sciences, she plans to go on to medical school and then on to residency, specializing in Pediatrics or Obstetrics & Gynecology. Amanda graduated from high school 7th in a class of 500, with a cumulative GPA of 3.8. She has worked very hard to maintain those same standards, maintaining a GPA of 3.557 while working 10 - 20 hours per week. She is a member of the University's Pre-Med club and has applied for a tutoring position on campus. Amanda recently went to Costa Rica through the International Service Learning program and has volunteered with the Pre-Health/Pre-Med teams to obtain clinical experience.

Also recognized were two recipients of the Bettie Archer Johnson scholarship at Madonna University. The Novi Oaks chapter created the scholarship to honor Bettie Johnson, and funds it annually. Recipient Yolanda Varga recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Madonna University with a B.S. in Paralegal Studies and a Minor in Business. A USAF veteran, Yolanda hopes to work for the new Patent Office in Detroit. Recipient Megan Daniels also graduated with high honors, earning a Bachelors in Business Administration. She is furthering her education at University of Michigan – Dearborn where she is studying for a Masters degree in Accounting.

"Awarding scholarships to such deserving young women is one of the primary reasons I joined ABWA," observed Sandy Schrah, Education Chair.

The mission of ABWA is: "To bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and it provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition." ABWA was founded in 1949, and is the only national women's organization that offers a web-based networking and training program for its members. The Women's Instructional Network (WIN) brings members from across the U.S. together, and offers training programs in writing resumes and interviewing, and provides leadership and chapter management modules. Local ABWA chapters provide face-to-face opportunities for building relationships and gaining knowledge. Student memberships are also available at a reduced rate.

The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter raises money for scholarships, grants, and tuition reimbursement, and also provides training opportunities for its members. The focus is on meeting other women, being actively involved, and building relationships for the long term. We offer interesting, educational, and business-relevant programs. Novi Oaks holds dinner meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi - paid reservations are required (\$16 by mail or \$17 via the website at www.abwa-novi.org). For more information about the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of ABWA and how you can join ABWA, attend a meeting, or communicate with our officers, visit www.abwa-novi.org.

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