

Four Ohio Valley Women Honored at Wheeling Area Chamber's 3rd Annual ATHENA Leadership Award Luncheon



The 2025 ATHENA Leadership Award and Tribute to Women Finalists pictured left to right, JulieAnn Davis, Jennifer Rohrig, Becky Shilling-Rodocker, and Rosemary Humway-Warmuth

WHEELING, W.Va., May 16, 2025 --- The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Ohio Valley ATHENA Leadership Award Luncheon in collaboration with YWCA Wheeling on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at the Wheeling Park White Palace, bringing together the community to celebrate the following finalists: JulieAnn Davis with the Ohio County Virtual Lions Club, Rosemary Humway-Warmuth with the City of Wheeling, WV, Becky Shilling-Rodocker with The Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, and Jennifer Rohrig with the West Virginia Department of Economic Development. Each finalist was presented with the YWCA Wheeling's honorable Tribute to Women award, and the prestigious 2025 Ohio Valley ATHENA Leadership Award was presented to Becky Shilling-Rodocker in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the region.

The ATHENA Leadership Award is made possible by ATHENA International, an organization whose vision is to "develop diverse, transformative leaders by celebrating the change-makers and trailblazers who open doors of leadership and opportunity for women in communities across the globe." There are over 500 regions partnered with ATHENA international across 48 states and 11 countries who believe in, and are helping to achieve this vision, one community at a time. The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be the first in the state of West Virginia to have presented this award in 2023 and hopes to continue the tradition for many years to come.

The event featured an inspirational keynote presentation with Brooke Anderson, Director of

Marketing for the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, interviewing Brenda Danehart, former News Director for WTRF 7News, and then Danehart interviewing Rebekah Wolfe, former YWCA Wheeling client and current Marshall County Teen Dating Violence Advocate for YWCA Wheeling. Both Danehart and Wolfe spoke on their life journeys and what they have learned along the way in effort of educating and empowering those in the audience.

Brooke Anderson, Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Director of Marketing, stated “I love this event because it gives the community a chance to shine the spotlight on women who are often so focused shining it on others. These finalist work so hard day in and day out giving to our community and helping others, so it is pure joy to honor them and show a portion of our appreciation for them today.” JulieAnn Davis, a 2025 finalist, pointed out that three of this year’s finalists are graduates of Bethany College, with the fourth finalist being a graduate of West Liberty University. Davis noted how amazing it is that all four of the women honored were products of this region and have deep roots within the Valley’s educational institutions.

The day would not have been possible without the sponsors who stepped up to the plate and continuously show their support for the Ohio Valley community. The event’s Title Sponsor for the 3rd year in a row was WesBanco, Inc.. Additional sponsors included the City of Wheeling, WV, Encova, Regional Economic Development Partnership (RED), American Electric Power (AEP), Belmont Savings Bank, iHeart Media, WVU Medicine, WTRF 7News, Steptoe and Johnson PLLC, and Savvy Sellebrations, who for the second year in a row transformed the White Palace to an elegant, purple-themed atmosphere. The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce thanks all of the sponsors, volunteers, attendees, and the YWCA Wheeling for their partnership, collaboration, and efforts that made this event happen.

Nominations for the 2026 Ohio Valley ATHENA Leadership Award will open in January 2026, and can be located at www.WheelingChamber.com.

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The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) organization. The mission of the Chamber is to be the leader for the Greater Wheeling Area businesses by developing and promoting philosophies, policies, programs, and projects that foster an environment that enhances opportunities for Wheeling and its businesses to grow and prosper. For more information, visit www.wheelingchamber.com.

