

YWCA honors outstanding women

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Stephanie Knoth said her volunteer work has always been about giving back without the expectation she'd be given something in return.

But on Tuesday, Knoth was among nine local women honored during the YWCA Greater Lafayette annual Salute to Women banquet.

"I never expected to be awarded for something I like to do," said Knoth, vice president and business banker at Centier Bank, which she helped bring to Lafayette, and president of the Boys and Girls Club of Tippecanoe County board.

Knoth was chosen as this year's "Woman of Innovation," a distinction reserved for outstanding women younger than 40.

Other recipients were for the "Women of Distinction" award: Angie Ferguson, Kristel Kaye, Toni Munguia, Anita Werling, Sharon Martin and Susan Woodson. And for the "Women of Wisdom" honor: Anne-Marie Egan and Cicely Ward.

The women's backgrounds range from community volunteers to cancer and war survivors and entrepreneurs.

They've globe-trotted and they've planted roots in or around Lafayette. Their accomplishments include founding magazines, working to diversify Purdue's student body and helping to preserve historic structures.

Anita Werling was chosen for her work in the revitalization and historical preservation of Delphi. Currently, she's serving as chairwoman of the Delphi Preservation Society's Opera House Advisory Board. She also works with other organizations, such as Delphi Main Street.

Werling said she never sought to be honored for her work, simply: "I do what I love."

She advises other women who hope to make a mark do the same.

"Volunteer in a lot of different organizations," Werling said.

"Do different things until you find your passion. And when you do that, you'd be amazed what you can accomplish."

The nine honorees join more than 200 past recipients, a cadre of local women who YWCA board member Beth Stull said exemplify women's contributions to Lafayette.

The honor, given annually since 1974, recognizes women for their outstanding and inspiring achievements through community involvement or professional roles.

"It's important to recognize women who, whether in the work place or community service, achieved over and above what was required," Stull said.

"And it's important we as a community continue to recognize the contributions of women who make the community what it is."

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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