

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry Turner, President
sturner@kcwen.org | (816) 595-1296 | kcwen.org



Women's Employment Network to honor 9-year volunteer, Phyllis Collins, with the 2019 Beth K. Smith Award at WEN Annual Luncheon

KANSAS CITY, MO, March 13, 2019 — Phyllis Collins, Chief Engagement Officer for The Collins Network, has been selected to be the 2019 Beth K. Smith Award recipient. As the 10th recipient of the award, she will receive the distinguished honor at the Women's Employment Network (WEN) Annual Luncheon on April 18, 2019 at the Sheraton Crown Center.

The Beth K. Smith Award, named after one of WEN's co-founders, was created a decade ago to recognize an individuals or organization who share a common vision of supporting women in our community and who are committed to advancing the mission Women's Employment Network.

"We are pleased to announce Phyllis Collins as our 2019 Beth K. Smith award recipient because of her dedication to WEN in so many meaningful capacities over the last 9 years and her outstanding commitment to our mission," said Sherry Turner, President and CEO of WEN. "Phyllis has been instrumental in future planning of WEN by mapping out the Signature Program and to help to identify the *secret sauce* that makes WEN stand out in the community."

Since 2010, Collins has presented workshops at WEN, including a client favorite "Facing Your Fears" which takes place during the final week of the five-week curriculum. Collins supports WEN clients as they learn to acknowledge their specific fears and begin to take a more meaningful approach to finding employment.

As a valued member of the board and current WEN Board Secretary, Collins is able to bring the perspective of someone who has worked directly with the clients and staff of WEN. She shows a deep and true understanding of the mission and vision of WEN and the clients we serve.

"As the old story goes, when we engage in the lives of others and we think we are helping them," said Collins. "It starts to become hard to determine who is actually helping whom? Is it the one who openly receives? Or is it the one who openly gives? I think I have discovered the answer!"

The WEN Luncheon, which helps raise awareness and funding for the organization, will be held this year on Thursday, April 18th at the Sheraton Crown Center, Grand Ballroom (2345 McGee Street), beginning at 11:45 a.m. The Luncheon is **co-chaired by Joshua C. Rowland**, Vice Chairman and CEO of Lead Bank and **Andy Fromm**, Chairman and CEO of Service Management Group (SMG).

About WEN

Women's Employment Network (WEN) is a nonprofit organization that offers job-search training and resources, individualized coaching, and financial education for women in the Kansas City metro area. WEN has expanded its services to include entrepreneurial connections, business mentoring and microlending to meet the ever-changing needs of its clients through the **OneKC for Women Alliance — Women's Employment Network, Women's Business Center, Women's Capital Connection and the WE-Lend Initiative.**

For more information about WEN or to purchase tickets to the luncheon, visit kcwen.org or call (816) 595-1297.