

# NEWS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GIRL SCOUTS TO HONOR SEVEN OF NJ'S MOST OUTSTANDING WOMEN AT 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

**EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ, January 26, 2006** — Continuing its mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place, the Girl Scouts of Delaware-Raritan, Inc., will recognize seven leading NJ women role models who have exemplified dedication, leadership and commitment in their communities and in their fields of expertise. “The women are truly dynamic, their leadership demonstrates to young women that they can study hard, dream big and overcome any challenges placed before them,” says Michele Tuck-Ponder, CEO of the Girl Scout Council.

“This event is a great venue for young girls to see professional women who have achieved great things while staying connected to their families and greater communities.” The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Distinction Awards dinner, sponsored by Merrill Lynch, PNC Bank, ETS and Gabowitz TV & Appliances will be held at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 5:30PM.

A nominating committee of women, representing greater Middlesex and Mercer counties’ businesses and communities, selected this year’s honorees from a pool of more than 25 nominees. The seven women selected this year have demonstrated excellence in areas of relevance and importance to the Girl Scout movement. **BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN** Majority Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly representing the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District will be honored with the **Juliette Low Excellence in Leadership Award**. This award, affectionately named after Girl Scout Founder Juliette Gordon Low, recognizes pioneering women who have made groundbreaking and lasting contributions in their chosen careers, ultimately impacting NJ and beyond. Merrill Lynch’s Vice President of NJ Community Leadership, **HELENE GARCIA** is the 2006 Woman of Distinction in the **World of Community Leadership**, recognizing excellence in guiding corporate commitments to the community at large. Chief Executive Officer of Community Investment Strategies, Inc., **CHRISTIANA FOGLIO PALMER** will represent **The World of Community Development**, highlighting her commitment to addressing social issues impacting the community through the development of neighborhood improvement programs. **ADELINA LLONA**,

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**Where Girls Grow Strong.**

Forsgate Country Club's Director of Catering, will accept honors in **The World of People**, for her commitment to expanding opportunities and raising awareness of the world around us. Stage and screen Actress, **SUZANNE DOUGLAS** will be recognized in **The World of the Arts**, for her focused involvement in the entire range of performing and visual arts. **PAMELA PRUITT**, Vice President for Business Development at WIMG – Morris Broadcasting Company of NJ, is honored in **The World of Communications**. This award recognizes involvement with all aspects of community and corporate public affairs. The final award for 2006 is in **The World of the Environment**. **BARBARA J. BROMLEY**, Horticulturist at Rutgers Coop Research & Extension will be recognized for her extensive work in caring for our natural environment and respecting the interdependence of all living things.

To further demonstrate how successful women build careers, raise families and still find the time to involve themselves in their communities, six Girl Scouts will begin mentoring relationships with the honorees. "The mentoring aspect of our WOD tradition shows girls that successful women are everywhere and that through hard work, they can achieve any goal they set for themselves." added Michele Tuck-Ponder "Not only are the Girl Scouts inspired by the strength that they see in these women, but the women are just as inspired by the determination of these Girl Scouts." The Girl Scouts being honored this year are: **Brittney A. Calloway** of Edison, **Kelly Berry** from New Brunswick, **Elyse S. Powell** and **Raeanne Bourscheid** both from Princeton, **Rachael Weberlist** of Colonia and **Dianna Pfister** of Robbinsville. In addition to the unique mentoring relationships, each of the Girl Scout honorees will receive a US Savings Bond to commemorate the event.

Approximately 300 guests are expected to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Distinction dinner, as each woman accepts her award on March 30, 2006. The evening will include a cocktail hour, dinner, video presentation and awards ceremony. For reservations or further information about Women and Girl Scouts of Distinction, please contact the Girl Scouts of Delaware-Raritan, Inc. at 732-821-9090 ext. 112.

**More than 12,500 girls in Middlesex, Mercer and parts of Monmouth, Somerset and Union counties are part of the Girl Scout Movement, where Girls Grow Strong. The Girl Scouts of Delaware-Raritan, Inc. is the states pre-eminent girl serving organization, committed to building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.**

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**Where Girls Grow Strong.**