



The Gratiot Area Chamber
of Commerce presents the
30th year.

February 11, 2026

Dear ATHENA Award supporter:

The ATHENA Leadership Award celebrates exemplary leadership and is reflective of a quote by Plato:

What is honored in a country will be cultivated there.

Gratiot's ATHENAS are community champions who sustain and inspire the vibrancy of our community. They

- *Have achieved the highest level of professional excellence.*
- *Contribute time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community.*
- *Actively assist others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential.*

The 30th annual ATHENA award will be presented to this year's recipient at the ATHENA Luncheon on **Thursday, April 9, 2026**, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM at the Masonic Pathways Doig Chapel.

We are especially pleased to announce that the Founder of ATHENA International, Martha Mayhood Mertz, will be joining us for this year's ATHENA Awards Ceremony. Her attendance makes this celebration even more meaningful as we honor the leaders who embody mission and values.

This selection can only be made through community involvement. Here's how you can help.

Sponsor the annual ATHENA Selection and Celebration

Help us continue this important tradition, promoting the advancement of women in our society.

- *Gold sponsorship* (\$500) includes 4 complimentary tickets.
- *Silver sponsorship* (\$350) includes 2 complimentary tickets.
- *Bronze sponsorship* (\$150)

The event and your sponsorship will be well-publicized in the local media, the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, and on social media, and the Gratiot Area website. To ensure recognition for your support of this event and all it represents, please secure your sponsorship no later than March 27, 2026 at <https://gacc.gratiot.org/annual-athena-awards> or by calling the Chamber office at (989) 463-5525. *Checks should be made out to Gratiot Chamber with "ATHENA" on the memo line. The mailing address is 127 E. Superior, Alma, MI 48801.*

Nominate a leader for the 2026 ATHENA Award

We are so fortunate to have so many potential ATHENAS in Gratiot County, who through their selfless service inspire others and increase the vibrancy of our communities. Anyone may nominate an individual by completing the nomination form at <https://gacc.gratiot.org/annual-athena-awards> accompanied by 3 letters of recommendation, received by March 13, 2026. The nomination should be emailed to gratiotathena@gmail.com.

Past Gratiot ATHENA Award recipients are listed on our website at <https://gacc.gratiot.org/annual-athena-awards>. They are excellent examples of the ATHENA Leadership Award®.

Celebrate with us at the 2026 ATHENA Award Luncheon

Tickets are available at <https://gacc.gratiot.org/annual-athena-awards/> through the Gratiot Area Chamber or at the door for \$20. Celebrate our 2026 ATHENA and bring colleagues and team members you are encouraging and inspiring to have a similar impact.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chamber Office at (989) 463-5525. Thank you for helping to recognize these outstanding leaders in our community.

Sincerely,

The ATHENA Committee