

For Immediate Release:
May 22, 2018

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Hundreds gather in Camarillo to honor women business owners at 19th Annual NAWBO BRAVO awards

Ventura County, CA — In April, a packed room of business owners, executives, colleagues, friends and supporters honored nine outstanding women and a corporate leader for their extraordinary and inspirational contributions within their respective fields at the 19th Annual NAWBO Ventura County (NAWBO VC) BRAVO awards luncheon in Camarillo.

The eventful day was emceed by internationally-renowned speaker, author, and the “pitch coach” from *American Inventor* Mimi Donaldson of MimiSpeaks!. BRAVO awards co-chair and NAWBO VC President, Elaine Hollifield said during the event, “I am humbled by the accomplishments of these remarkable women. They represent the best of the best in their field and we are honored they have chosen our community to do their amazing work.”

The 2018 BRAVO Honorees

- Woman Business Owner of the Year – **Dawn Dyer**, *Dyer Sheehan Group*
- Lifetime Achievement Award – **Wilma Melville**, *National Disaster Search Dog Foundation*
- Innovator of the Year – **Emily Barany**, *VISIONALITY & ThomasFireHelp.org*
- Rising Star of the Year – **Rachel Perryman**, *La Rouge Salon & Bridal Team*
- Community Advocate of the Year – **Dena Jenson**, *Center for Nonprofit Leadership*
- Education Advocate of the Year – **Rose Hayden-Smith**, *University of California Food Observer*
- Visionary of the Year – **Kim Maxwell**, *Kim Maxwell Studio & The Townies Podcast*
- Young Woman Entrepreneur of the Year – **Kamie Abraham**, *Sagemark Consulting*
- NAWBO-VC Member of the Year – **Natalie Ruffing**, *Sirens Media*
- Corporate Leader of the Year – **Gold Coast Transit District**

Get to know the honorees’ by reading their stories here: <http://www.nawbovc.org/events/bravo2018-after/>.

Importantly, State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, a longtime NAWBO supporter, took time out of her busy schedule to attend the event and report on the progress of SB Bill 826, authored by her and sponsored by NAWBO California. The bill would provide for gender diverse representation on corporate boards of publicly-held corporations headquartered in California by requiring at least one woman on each board by the end of 2019.

NAWBO Ventura County – The local Ventura County chapter of NAWBO is committed to strengthening the wealth creating capacity of its members while promoting economic development within the entrepreneurial Ventura County community. Additionally the local chapter focuses on creating innovative and effective change in the business culture, building strategic alliances and transforming public policy for the benefit of its members. Membership is open to women sole proprietors, partners and corporate owners as well as those businesses that support women owned businesses. Learn more: www.nawbovc.org.