



Tribute to Women 2019 Honorees

Dr. Alma Adams

Adams was an art professor at Bennett College and a former state legislator and City Council member, and is now a US Congresswoman.

Elreta Melton Alexander

In 1947, Alexander became the first African American woman to practice law in North Carolina. In 1968, she became the first African American woman to be elected district court judge. During her tenure, she created the controversial Judgment Day program, aimed at rehabilitating young, first-time offenders.

Carolyn Allen

Allen was the first female mayor of the City of Greensboro when she was elected in 1993. She was an instructor at NC A&T State University and UNC-Greensboro.

Dorothy Bardolph

Bardolph (1918-1990) served as a Greensboro City Council member from 1979-89 and mayor pro tem from 1987-89. She was an early and effective advocate for the environment, racial justice, and women.

Josephine Boyd Bradley

Bradley (1940-2015) was the first African American student to integrate a whites-only high school in North Carolina, and she did it alone in a school of nearly 2,000 students. In 1958, she became the first African American to graduate from an integrated public high school in the state.

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown

The granddaughter of former slaves who was born in 1883 in Henderson, Brown was a lecturer, social worker, and religious leader. She founded the Palmer Memorial Institute, a day and boarding school for African Americans in Sedalia.

Claudette Burroughs-White

Burroughs-White served as a City of Greensboro councilwoman (1994-2005) and as a member of the Governor's Crime Commission (1997-2005), the United Way, the Girl Scouts, and the YWCA. She participated in the Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins and later co-chaired the 40th anniversary commemoration of the event.

Dr. Goldie Byrd

Byrd has been a professor, department chair, and dean at NC A&T State University, her alma mater. She specializes in Alzheimer's research, and founded the Center for Outreach in Alzheimer's, Aging and Community Health. She is now the director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Willena Cannon

Cannon is a fighter for racial and class justice who champions for affordable and safe housing for the most vulnerable in our community through her work with the Greensboro Housing Coalition.

Carolyn Coleman

A Georgia native, Coleman has been a civil rights activist working with the NAACP. She has served four terms on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and previously served as a special assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt.

Betty Cone

Cone advocated for the historic designation of Old Greensborough, saved the Carolina Theatre from demolition, and oversaw the annual Fun Fourth and Festival of Lights community events.

Dr. Katie Dorsett

Dorsett was the first African American woman elected to the Greensboro City Council. She was also a Guilford County Commissioner, a North Carolina State Senator. She was the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, the first African American woman to hold a cabinet post.

Cynthia Doyle

Doyle was a long-time community volunteer and leader who helped start United Day Care Services (now Guilford Child Development), Child Abuse Prevention Services, Reading Connections, Leadership Greensboro, and the Greensboro Children's Museum.

Dr. Claudia Femenias

Femenias is the president of Casa Azul of Greensboro, which aims to promote Latino art and culture through free events that highlight local Latino artists. She is a professor at High Point University.

Shirley Frye

She has been an leader with the local YWCA, NC A&T State University, High Point University, and local foundations.

Florence Fraser Gatten

Gatten has been active in Greensboro arts, civics, and political life. She has served on many boards, including Bennett College, Young Artists Opera Theatre, Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, Belle Meade Society of Greensboro Historical Museum, Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation, and Greensboro City Council.

Rhiannon Giddens

Giddens, raised in Greensboro, is an accomplished banjo and violin player and an accomplished vocalist. She is a founder of the Grammy-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops, the first woman and person of color to win the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, and a BBC Radio2 Folk Singer of the Year.

Mary Mendenhall Hobbs

Hobbs (1852-1930) was a Quaker leader, teacher, writer, advocate, and mentor who championed women's education in North Carolina.

Tabitha Anne Holton

In 1878, Holton was the first woman to be licensed as a lawyer in North Carolina and in the southern United States.

Sandra Hughes

Hughes joined WFMY News 2 in 1972, and was the first African American woman in the Piedmont to host her own daily talk show. She was also the first African American to host the entertainment show PM Magazine in the southeast region.

Aggie "Jean" Jackson

Jackson served as the first female and first African American athletics director for the City of Greensboro. She dedicated her 25-year career to improving opportunities and access for girls and women in sports.

Yvonne Johnson

Johnson has served on the Greensboro City Council for more than 20 years. She was the first African American mayor of the City of Greensboro.

Culey "Vickie" Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro and her husband founded the *Carolina Peacemaker*, Greensboro's long-running African American newspaper.

Yolanda Leacraft

She developed a number of programs for women in Greensboro. She is the former administrator of the Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women and has served on the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro board.

Captain Pam McAdoo-Rogers

McAdoo-Rogers has served the City of Greensboro as a police officer for over 30 years and has been involved in community projects such as the Citizens Advisory Council, Operation PASS, and Operation Yuletide. She was awarded the Guilford Merchants Association Distinguished Service Award in 2015 and North State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2009.

Mary Webb Nicholson

Nicholson, a Greensboro native, became the first woman in North Carolina to earn a private pilots' license, commercial license, and transport license. During World War II, she was among a group of American women pilots who assisted the British Air Transport Auxillary. She died in 1943 in a plane crash in England.

Mary Petty

Petty pursued higher education and an academic career in the sciences when that was a rare choice for women. In 1893, she established the chemistry program and mentored women in the sciences at Woman's College (now UNC-Greensboro). She was also an early organizer and president of the Greensboro Women's Club, a leader in the NC Federations of Women's Clubs, and a leader within the Society of Friends in North Carolina.

Dr. Willa Player

Player was a former president of Bennett College and a significant behind-the-scenes force in civil rights in Greensboro. She welcomed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to speak on campus when no one else in the city would.

Dr. Gladys Ashe Robinson

Robinson, current Deputy Minority Leader of the North Carolina Senate, is an advocate for education, small businesses, jobs, women's rights, and ensuring health and quality of life for low income, minority, disabled, and elderly populations. She was one of the originators of the breast density legislation, introduced legislation on lupus, and has worked on issues of domestic violence and homelessness.

Liz Seymour

Seymour is the founder of the Interactive Resource Center, a day center for homeless residents in downtown Greensboro.

Estella Marie Stamey

Stamey was a neighborhood leader and advocate for Eastside Park. She helped neighborhood children with homework after school in her living room. This led to the creation of Eastside Park Community Center, which is a private center intended to serve the community through positive programming.

Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women

The mission of the City's Commission on the Status of Women is to improve the quality of life for women in Greensboro. The commission makes recommendations to City Council for actions it deems necessary to improve and uphold the opportunities for all people regardless of gender.

Greensboro Woman's Club

The Greensboro Woman's Club, established in 1909, is the oldest community service organization in Greensboro.

League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

The nonpartisan, grassroots league provides voter registration, voter guides, and candidate forums to the community, and raises awareness on issues of critical importance to voters, such as the environment, fair elections, health, and public education.

Women's Resource Center of Greensboro

The center is a nonprofit organization that helps women navigate life's hurdles, access community services, develop new skills and move their lives forward.