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## Indiana Commission for Women to Honor Seven as 2019 Torchbearer Award Recipients

**Indianapolis (September 06, 2019)**— The Board of Commissioners of the Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) will honor seven extraordinary women at this year’s annual **Torchbearer Awards Ceremony** on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 5:00 PM at the Indiana Historical Society, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis. Admission is free; however, guests should register to attend at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-torchbearer-awards-tickets-70517406461>.

This prestigious award recognizes women from around the state who have broken down barriers, overcome obstacles to women’s full participation, and have made Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Melissa Cotterill, Chair of the Indiana Commission for Women, shares the Board’s excitement to honor this year’s Torchbearer recipients. “We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments and service of this group of outstanding Hoosier women, whose work has positively impacted communities throughout Indiana.”

This year’s Recipients are (brief bios below):

- Deborah Chubb (Michigan City), 25 Women for 2020, Inc.
- Esther J. Lewis (Gary), CareSource
- Estella Moss (Evansville), Retired Vanderburgh County Recorder
- Holly Renz (Anderson), Community Hospital Anderson
- Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Carmel), IUPUI
- Brandi Smith (Bloomington), Indiana University Bloomington
- Audrey Taylor (Indianapolis), netlogx, Inc.

### Brief Bios of 2019 Torchbearer Awards Recipients

- **Deborah Chubb**, Consultant/ Creative Executive, 25 Women for 2020: Deborah Chubb is a former practicing attorney, former Executive Director of The Child Care Consortium Inc. Head Start of LaPorte County, and is an active advocate issues affecting women, children, and the environment (served as past President of Save the Dunes, Inc.).
- **Esther J. Lewis**, Life Coach, CareSource: In her full-time role Esther spends her days in service to the state’s Medicaid population as a Life Coach helping them to navigate through issues of education, employment, sobriety, and homeownership. In her spare time Esther consults on

projects in support of Hoosiers, notably the Gary Downtown Emerson Spotlight Quality of Life Plan. Esther serves on the Equity and Inclusion Workgroup for the Indiana Commission on Improving the Status of Children and as a Commission on the Indiana Commission for the Social Status of Black Males.

- **Estella Moss**, Retired: Estella Moss was the first African American woman to serve as Vanderburgh County Recorder (elected for the first time in 1976). Born in the Tennessee during the Jim Crow era, at the age of 90 Estella continues to use her platform to advocate for low-income housing, women's rights, and equal access.
- **Holly Renz**, RN, Program Director, Madison County Sexual Assault Treatment Center of Community Hospital Anderson: Holly has been a registered nurse for 43 years, serving in her current role since 1998. She has provided medical forensic examinations to over 1200 patients impacted by sexual assault and abuse. In addition, Holly serves as a member of the Anderson Community Schools Board of Trustees.
- **Sandy Eisenberg Sasso**, Director of Religion, Spirituality, and the Arts Initiative, IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute: Rabbi Sasso is Rabbi Emerita of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis where she served from 1977 to 2013. She was the second woman ever to be ordained a rabbi. Rabbi Sasso is a past president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Gleaner's Food Bank, and a past chair of the Spirit and Place Festival. She serves on numerous boards including the Indiana Humanities Council and is a co-founder of Women4Change Indiana.
- **Brandi Smith**, Senior Assistant Director, Specific Student Populations, Indiana University Bloomington Career Development Center: Brandi is the founder of IU Women Rising, a program that promotes leadership and career development for women and helps to equip them with tools to close the gender equity pay gap. Brandi authored a grant that allowed for 990 women to participate in gender wage advocacy programming across campus and hired 5 undergraduate women to serve as IU Women Rising Ambassadors spreading awareness amongst their peers about the gender pay gap.
- **Audrey Taylor**, CEO, netlogx LLC: After finishing high school, Audrey began her career in IT and in 1998 founded netlogx, a consulting services business. Today netlogx employees approximately 50 people and has been listed five (5) times as a "Best Place to Work in Indiana". netlogx clients include: Anthem, the Indiana BMV, and other state agencies.

## About the Indiana Commission for Women

The Indiana Commission for Women is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to live, work and raise a family. ICW works to **move Indiana women forward** by understanding the needs of Indiana women and their families and by working strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive solutions. We act as the voice of women, communicating their needs and concerns as well as their successes and contributions, so that they can become better connected to their communities and to the tools, resources and opportunities needed to find their own voice. For more information, go to: [www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw).