



OhioFBE

Celebrating Ohio's Women Owned Businesses

January 1, 2017

Published by The 912 Group, Ltd.

Ronda Watson Barber —

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Volume 1—No. 1

A salute to OhioMBE's Top FBE Winners

Last October, OhioMBE honored small business owners who are excelling at the 2016 OhioMBE Awards. The following ladies received the Top FBE Award.



Melissa E. Perkins - Owner of Uzuri Kid Kidz & Uzuri Enterprise

Melissa Perkins was born to be an Entrepreneur. As a little girl, Perkins caught the enterprise bug as a result of her selling candy and performing odd jobs. Melissa said as long as she can remember she loves creating and selling things. Creating things was apparent as Melissa with her sister Adria formed Uzuri Kid Kidz an African American Party Supply & Accessories Company. Perkins said she created Uzuri Kid Kidz to ensure that children of color could celebrate with positive images that mirrored their lifestyle. Thus, one of her goals was to address the absence of African American products on store shelves, which Perkins accomplished through selling her product line to the following retailers: Kroger, Wal-Mart, Birthday in a Box, Birthday Express and other Small Business in the United Kingdom.

Melissa's business accomplishments have been featured and celebrated in African American publications such as Essence Magazine, Sister to Sister, Ebony Magazine and Black Enterprise.

Renne Dismore - Owner of Nay's Creative Ways

Nay was born and raised in New Albany, Indiana and went to college in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. After serving several churches and ministries in Sandusky, Ohio, Indianapolis, Indiana and the Louisville, Kentucky area, she began working as a paralegal in estate work in New Albany and Louisville, KY.

Nay met her husband of 31 years, Terry, in 1984. He was in radio. They have worked at listener-supported stations and Nay started hosting meetings and parties for him at those stations and this whetted her appetite for learning all about Hospitality.

She believes hospitality is something that can be taught, and it is one of the best ways to get to know people...whether co-workers, friends, neighbors or even people you don't know! Tea parties are relaxing, intimate and fun and can lead to life-long friendships and great relationships. Pretzels With a Twist came out of her love of Hospitality. "We've put a New Twist on a Classic Snack".

Currently, Nay and Terry attend Faithful Family Life Church in New Albany, Ohio. Starting a new business, doing comedy and speaking keep her busy as well as hosting tea parties.





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Wanda D. Curry-Shepard - Owner, Unique Services Logistics Career Academy, LLC

Wanda has always enjoyed teaching others. Her first assignment dates back to 1985 during the 7th grade, when she was selected by her teacher to assist in teaching English to a peer, who moved to Columbus, OH from Honduras.

In 2004, Ms. Wanda started two businesses, Unique Services, LLC and The Professional Bail Bond Group, Inc. While recognizing the need to be self-sufficient, she continued her own education and obtained numerous certificates and degrees. She currently holds the Professional Designation of Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE); a Bachelor's of Science in Accounting with a minor in Healthcare Management degree from Franklin University; Associates of Science in Accounting Degree and Bookkeeping Certificate from Columbus State Community College.

In 2009, Wanda expanded into the transportation industry by opening a brokerage firm. She has trained and employed several agents to arrange transportation of goods throughout the United States by connecting shippers and carriers. The Logistics division began in 2010 when she began purchasing semi-trucks to transport goods directly for shippers. Recognizing the need for Logistics-related career training, Wanda began training individuals in dispatching, brokerage, and office management. She developed curriculum that not only would teach the text book version of careers but also give the application approach of instruction through internship at her company. Working with owner-operators and company drivers, she recognized the need for additional training for class A CDL drivers in the area of safety, tax, office and business management, and has developed courses to meet those needs.

Wanda now offers these courses to the general public through Unique Services Logistics Career Academy, LLC. It is her hope that through the training and certifications offered in this academy, people will develop career paths that will lead to self-sufficient, sustaining and successful careers.

FIRST LADY SHANNON GINTHER ANNOUNCES COLUMBUS WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEMBERS

First Lady Shannon Ginther announced the inaugural class of the Columbus Women's Commission. The Commission, unveiled at Mayor Andrew J. Ginther's State of the City address in February, will work to dismantle barriers and reduce gender based-inequities to improve the economic position of women in our community.

In speaking about the applicant pool of 249, Ms. Ginther shared, "I was thrilled by the tremendous response from our community and the overwhelming desire to partner in this work to help truly improve the economic well-being of women in this community. The people we have selected will work together to recommend solutions, build partnerships and be advocates to create change for women."

Mayor Ginther said he was particularly impressed with the diversity of the Commission. "The Commission represents the diversity of Columbus in race and ethnicity, age and business sector," he said. "I believe this will make the Commission's work better able to include all of the different segments of our community."

The Commission will focus on four areas that are key to women in the community: pay equity, housing and safety, health and nutrition, and workforce development and education.

The first class of commissioners include:

- Chair, Shannon Ginther, First Lady, executive director of Healthcare Transformation at Ohio Health Group
- Christie Angel, consultant, Calfee Strategic Solutions
- Elizabeth Brown, City Councilmember
- Victoria Calderon, co-owner/CEO, Avanza Business Solutions & Bottoms Up Coffee Co-op
- Janelle Coleman, president, foundation and chief diversity officer, L Brands
- Nichole Dunn, president and CEO, The Women's Fund of Central Ohio
- Nicol Ghazi, administrator, Muslim Family Services
- Matt Habash, president and CEO, Mid-Ohio Foodbank
- Danielle Harlow, social science research analyst, Ohio De-

See Commission on page 7



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Commission from page 6

partment of Rehabilitation and Corrections

- Iris Harvey, president and CEO, Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio
- Terri Ifeduba, vice president of engagement and development, YWCA
- Gale King, executive vice president and chief administrative officer, Nationwide Insurance
- Kathleen McGarvey, deputy director, The Legal Aid Society of Columbus
- Ngozi Osuagwu, physician, clinical director of Women's Health Center, Doctor's Hospital
- Mary Relotto, founder, Dames Bond LLC& Mission Possible Consulting Group
- Daphne Saneholtz, partner/attorney, Brennan, Manna & Diamond LLC
- Barbara Smoot, president and CEO, WELD

The Columbus Women's Commission will hold its first meeting in January of 2017.

Credit from page 4

portunity to establish a business credit rating – which can be very valuable for future financing. Although credit lines provide many benefits, their downside is accumulating debt which can lead to costly interest in the long term. While debt can definitely be a useful tool for certain aspects of a business, business owners need to make sure their debt is working for them and not against them.

On a final note, it's essential to understand that credit lines for businesses are constantly evolving and changing. Sometimes unexpectedly. That doesn't mean you need to go along with every funding option. Do your research and outweigh the pros and cons of each credit line product. Develop a diversity of access to credit lines for your business, and leave the anxiety and fear behind.

Got some business news to share? Send it to news@OhioMBE.com. It may appear in an upcoming issue of OhioFBE.

business resources



www.EmployOhio.com



Ohio Business Development Center
www.OHBDC.org



Women's Business Centers of Ohio
www.wbcoho.org

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