Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket Thursday, 23 October 2014 13:22 - Last Updated Tuesday, 28 October 2014 08:50

Kathy Shayna Shocket has the inside scoop on the people who make a difference.



The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce hosted the prestigious luncheon of 11 finalists. And the winners are...

It's quite an honor to be awarded or nominated for an ATHENA Award. Not only does it embody the spirit of ATHENA, the ancient Greek goddess of wisdom, courage, arts and culture; but it's part of ATHENA International, a non-profit which inspires leadership among women.

In Phoenix, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce hosts the prestigious awards luncheon.

The 2014 finalists (pictured above) were nominated for their business leadership and positive impact as mentors to other women in the community. The finalists in the private sector category were **Kristine Kassel**, president of Benefits by Design; **Sheila Kloefkorn**, president and CEO of KEO Marketing; and **Ilana Lowery**, Editor-in-Chief of the Phoenix Business Journal.

Finalists in the public sector category were **Kimberly Hall**, director of career services with Goodwill of Central Arizona; **Linda Hunt**, president and CEO of Dignity Health in Arizona; and Avein **Saaty-Tafoya**, chief executive officer of Adelante Healthcare.

Finalists in the young professional category were **Meghan Cox**, partner at Lincoln Strategy Group and **Sidnee Peck**, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business.

## AND THE 2014 WINNERS are.....



**Tammy McLeod**, vice president of energy resource management for Arizona Public Service, was awarded the 2014 ATHENA Businesswoman of the Year Award in the Private Sector.

Christy McClendon, president and chief executive officer at New Pathways for Youth, was awarded the 2014 ATHENA Businesswoman of the Year Award in the Public Sector. **Pearl Chang Esau**, president and CEO of Expect More Arizona, earned the 2014 ATHENA Young Professional Award.

Congratulations everyone!



**Kathy Shayna Shocket** is a freelance Writer and TV-Field Producer based in Phoenix, AZ. She's a former TV - Reporter who's also written for national publications such as **TIME** Magazine, **MONEY** Magazine, **PEOPLE** Magazine, the **Hollywood Reporter** and **The New York Times**. She can be reached at redkarpetgirl@aol.com