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Young Leadership Council announces 2014 Role Model class

25 New Orleanians to be honored at Role Model Awards Gala on Saturday, August 9

NEW ORLEANS – Today, [Young Leadership Council](#) (YLC) proudly announced its 2014 Role Model class. Composed of 25 business, community, and civic leaders, the 2014 Role Model class will be honored at the 28th Annual YLC Role Model Awards Gala on Saturday, August 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans Hotel located at 601 Loyola Avenue.

Since 1986, YLC has annually sought nominations for local individuals who distinguish themselves as Role Models by actively contributing to the betterment of the Greater New Orleans region and by serving as an example not only to YLC's young professional members but also to the community at large. The 2014 Role Model class includes the following individuals:

- **Iftikhar Ahmad** – Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport
- **Justin T. Augustine, III** – New Orleans Regional Transit Authority; Veolia Transportation
- **Therese M. Badon** – UNCF
- **Arnold B. Baker** – Baker Ready Mix
- **Bryan Batt** – Le Petit Theatre; NO/AIDS Task Force
- **David Blossman** – Abita Brewing Company
- **Matt Candler** – 4.0 Schools
- **Michelle D. Craig** – Adams and Reese LLP
- **Jeffrey Goldring** – Goldring Family Foundation; Sazarac Company; Crescent Crown Distributing
- **Stephanie Haynes** – Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition
- **Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC** – Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- **James M. LeBlanc** – Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans
- **Charles E. Leche** – Deutsch, Kerrigan, & Stiles
- **Lan Chi Luu, PhD** – LSU Health Sciences Center
- **Ed Marshall** – First NBC Bank
- **R.M. "Iray" Nabatoff** – Community Center of St. Bernard
- **Lavonzell Nicholson** – PLAYNOLA Sports
- **Daryl Reginelli** – Reginelli's Pizzeria
- **Melissa Sawyer** – Youth Empowerment Project
- **Dana Shepard** – The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
- **Michael O. Smith** – Hyatt Regency New Orleans
- **Monica R. Sylvain, PhD** – The Posse Foundation, Inc.

- **Keith Twitchell** – Committee for a Better New Orleans
- **Thomas P. Westervelt** – IBERIABANK
- **Ana Zorrilla** – Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Each year's class of 25 honorees is selected by a committee composed of members of the YLC Board of Directors and past YLC Role Model Award recipients. The committee members review all nominations submitted from the community before selecting a final list of 25 individuals.

Honorees distinguish themselves by promoting a positive attitude and an unyielding desire to enhance the quality of life in the Greater New Orleans region, striving to unite the community in collaborative efforts for its future prosperity, serving as exemplary role models to young talent, and making significant contributions in their specific fields of endeavor. Notably, an individual can only receive the honor of YLC Role Model once in his or her lifetime.

"Each member of the 2014 Role Model class uniquely represents why strong leadership matters to a community," said 2014 YLC Board President Matthew A. Treuting. "The members of Young Leadership Council are inspired and encouraged by the work of our 2014 Role Model class members. We are proud to continue the tradition of honoring these individuals and connecting them with the leaders of tomorrow."

The Annual YLC Role Model Awards Gala is black tie attire and will feature a formal presentation of the members of the 2014 Role Model class followed by dinner, a silent auction, and musical entertainment. New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation President and CEO Mark Romig will serve as this year's Master of Ceremonies. An exclusive Patron Party will precede the main event.

This year's Role Model Gala event is chaired by YLC Board Member McKensie Kirchner. General admission tickets are \$200 per person and can be purchased online until Tuesday, August 6 at 5:00 p.m. by visiting <http://ylnola.org/donate/gala/>. Table sponsorship packages are also available, starting at \$2,000.

For more information about becoming a sponsor or to purchase tickets to the 28th Annual YLC Role Model Awards Gala, please contact Juliana Wilkins at juliana@ylnola.org or call 504.585.1198. For more information on YLC and to view a list of past Role Model Award recipients, please visit www.ylnola.org. Follow YLC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter @ylnola](#).

Young Leadership Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans, creating a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent YPO (young professionals' organization) in the country, YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the Greater New Orleans area since 1986.

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