



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Stephanie Powell

[stephanie@ylcnola.org](mailto:stephanie@ylcnola.org)

(504) 585-1527

**Young Leadership Council announces 2016 Role Model class**

*26 New Orleanians to be honored at Role Model Awards Gala on Saturday, September 17*

NEW ORLEANS – [Young Leadership Council](http://www.ylcnola.org) (YLC) proudly announces its 2016 Role Model class. Composed of 26 business, community, and civic leaders, the 2016 class will be honored at the 30th Annual YLC Role Model Awards Gala on Saturday, September 17, at 7 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans Hotel, located at 601 Loyola Avenue.

Annually since 1987, YLC has selected a class of outstanding New Orleanians who distinguish themselves as Role Models by actively contributing to the betterment of the Greater New Orleans region and by serving as an example to YLC's young professional members and also to the community at large. The 2016 Role Model class is composed of the following individuals:

- Jodi Aamodt
- Margaret Saer Beer
- Lisa Blossman
- Christian T. Brown
- Lynne Burkart
- Mark A. Cunningham
- J. Dalton Courson
- Dr. Jay Dumas
- Leah Engelhardt
- George Freeman, III
- Jason Horne
- Barbara Johnson
- Honorable Calvin Johnson
- Wan Kim
- Dr. Keith Liederman
- Dr. Calvin Mackie
- Leo Marsh
- Tory McPhail
- Dr. Debra B. Morton
- Jacobs Manuel Kain & Aamodt
- IBERIABANK
- New Orleans CityBusiness & Daily Journal of Commerce
- NOLA Holdings, LLC
- Postlethwaite & Netterville
- Jones Walker LLP
- Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann L.L.C.
- Daughters of Charity Health Services New Orleans
- Preis PLC
- Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC
- XS Martial Arts Dojo
- The Johnson Group
- Ret. Judge Orleans Parish Criminal District Court
- Smoothie King
- Kingsley House
- STEM NOLA
- AT&T Louisiana
- Commander's Palace
- Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Church

- Angela O’Byrne
  - Brandan ‘Bmike’ Odums
  - Terrance Osborne
  - Else Pedersen
  - Margo Phelps
  - Melanie Talia
  - Cheryl Teamer
- Perez, A Professional Corporation
  - 2-Cent Entertainment, Studio BE
  - Artist for TerranceOsborne.com
  - Bridge House / Grace House
  - Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans
  - New Orleans Police & Justice Foundation
  - New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau

Each year’s class of honorees is selected by a committee including 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 individuals. Individuals are selected based on significant contributions to their field of work, to their community, and to New Orleans at large. Notably, a person can only receive the honor of YLC Role Model once in his or her lifetime.

“This is a group of individuals that truly serve as role models to all New Orleanians by their distinguished work and dedication to the city,” said 2016 YLC Board President Calais Waring. “The incredible achievements of the 2016 Role Model Class are a testament to their place in New Orleans. YLC is as focused now on developing the leaders of tomorrow as it was 30 years ago when it started and connecting our members with these distinguished individuals allows us to keep the cycle of leadership going.”

The annual YLC Role Model Awards Gala is a black tie event and will feature a formal presentation of the members of the 2016 Role Model class followed by dinner and musical entertainment by Big Sam’s Funky Nation.

This year’s Role Model Gala event is chaired by YLC Board Member Jennifer Jeandron and YLC Past President Richard Pavlick. General admission tickets to the Role Model Awards Gala are \$200 per person, with Patron Party tickets available for \$500. All tickets can be purchased online by visiting <http://ylnola.org/purchase-gala-tickets>. Table sponsorship packages are also available, starting at \$2,500.

For more information about sponsorships or to purchase tickets to the 30th Annual YLC Role Model Awards Gala, please contact Stephanie Powell at [sponsor@ylnola.org](mailto:sponsor@ylnola.org) or call 504-585-1527. For more information on YLC and to view a list of past Role Model Award recipients, please visit [www.ylnola.org](http://www.ylnola.org). Follow YLC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

*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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