



NEWS RELEASE

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Trailblazer Awards Honors Two Outstanding Women of Achievement

Albany, NY– On Friday, March 21, 2025 at Wolfert's Roost Country Club, [The Women's Fund of the Capital Region](#) will recognize this year's Trailblazer and the Capital District Women's Employment Resource Center's Community Leading Star, at the [15th Trailblazers Awards Luncheon](#).

The honorees are:

- **Karen Carpenter**, President and CEO, Vanderheyden
- **Megan Allen**, CEO, New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. (NYCON)

The Honorary Committee Chair is **Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill**, a Women's Fund 2019 Trailblazer.

These three women will present a panel discussion: ***Educating and Inspiring Generations***. They will share compelling stories on this topic in a conversation moderated by Benita Zahn, DPS, MS, CHWC, NBC-HWC.

Two scholarship recipients will share their inspiring stories, including how their Women's Fund scholarship has helped them achieve their goals. We are honored to continue celebrating Kathy Russom's life through the scholarship in her name, funded by the Pursuit Board of Directors.

100% of the funds raised from the event will go to continuing The Women's Fund mission: to provide assistance to financially-insecure and nontraditional female students in the Greater Capital Region.

Jenn Malave, a Women's Fund Scholarship recipient and recent graduate of SUNY Schenectady County Community College, was struggling to complete her studies while working multiple jobs to get by on her own. Receiving a scholarship from The Women's Fund changed the trajectory of her life.

"When I won the scholarship, it was such a relief, such a huge burden off my shoulders. I was able to fully concentrate on my schoolwork, made the President's List, and was elected president of the Student Government Association," she said. "The work that they do really does change lives. None of the blessings that have come my way would have happened if it wasn't for their initial help."

For more details and to register, visit: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/trailblazers2025>

The Women's Fund is a program of the [Capital District Women's Employment & Resource Center \(WERC\)](#).

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