

Rep. Patricia Smith honored by LSU Women's Center

LSU Women's Center Announces 2016 Esprit de Femme Award Recipients

BATON ROUGE, January 27, 2016- The LSU Women's Center will honor Women's History Month on Thursday, March 18, at its fourth annual Esprit de Femme Awards Sunrise Celebration. This year's awards ceremony will be held at Boudreaux's in Baton Rouge, beginning at 8:00am. All proceeds will support the mission and initiatives of the Women's Center. 2015 Esprit de Femme honoree, Charlotte Placide, is serving as the 2016 Esprit de Femme honoree chair for the Sunrise Celebration.

Established in 2009, the Esprit de Femme award is an annual acknowledgment of a person who has made exceptional efforts towards the advancement of women in Louisiana. This award honors individuals who elevate the status of women in the community through their contributions to the arts, education, healthcare, business and industry, charity, and civic engagement.

This year also marks the first year that the Esprit de Femme Student Leadership Award will be given. This award will honor and recognize two LSU students who exemplify the ideals and principals of the Esprit de Femme awards through the awarding of a scholarship. The award recipients will be selected in February and will be awarded their scholarship at the Sunrise Celebration.

"We are excited about all of our honorees and look forward to the opportunity to recognize their phenomenal contributions at the fourth Annual Esprit de Femme Awards Sunrise Celebration," said Summer Steib, LSU Women's Center director. "These women have made lasting impacts on the lives of countless women in our state and blazed trails for other women. Our 2016 honorees represent diverse backgrounds and accomplishment -- our honorees are leaders and trail-blazers in government, medicine, arts, the business sector, nonprofits, academics, and civic engagement."

In 2016, the Esprit de Femme award will be presented to eight deserving recipients. The recipients are: Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Renee Chatelain, Teri G. Fontenot, Dr. Elizabeth "Terry" Fonham, Dima Ghawi, Dr. Carolyn H. Hargrave, Sybil Morial, and **Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith**. The 2016 Men Who Champion Women honoree is Dr. Isaiah M. Warner.