



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GEORGIA POWER 'LIGHTS UP' THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMUNITY WITH BIG WIN AS CORPORATION OF THE YEAR DURING THE GREATER WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL'S 2014 LACE AWARDS

*From Georgia to the Carolinas, IT, Workplace Solutions and Staffing Reigns Supreme among Women-Owned Business Winners*

**ATLANTA (December 2014) – The Greater Women's Business Council, Inc. (GWBC®)**, the most respected provider of certification and development resources for certified women business enterprises (WBEs) in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, named Georgia Power, A Southern Company, **Corporation of the Year** during its annual **Ladies Achieving Continuous Excellence (LACE) Awards** held on November 14 at the Downtown Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Of the dozens of nominees in a variety of categories, 11 outstanding WBEs and corporations walked away with a prestigious LACE Award underscoring their 'best in class' service and support of women-owned businesses.

### **GWBC LACE LEGACIES**

GWBC's WBEs stole the show raking in a total of seven of 11 awards with winners from Georgia and the Carolinas. **WBE Advocate of the Year** went to Susie Galyardt of IT company XIOSS, Inc. GWBC® presented four **WBE Trailblazer Awards** in four categories including **Trailblazer I** (Sales under \$1M) to Nancy Sprattlin of McFadden, White, Sprattlin & Davis; **Trailblazer II** (Annual Sales \$1M-\$5M) to Kayla Dang of GMI Group; **Trailblazer III** (Annual Sales \$5M-\$10M) to Michelle Deal of Key Services; and **Trailblazer IV** (Annual Sales over \$10M) to Sharon Olzerowicz of Hired By Matrix. Leadership training company INNOLECT, Inc.'s Kittie Watson took the coveted **WBE Volunteer of the Year Award** in the Carolinas and Kayla Dang of GMI Group for Georgia.

In addition to Georgia Power's big win as **Corporation of the Year**, the power and energy services company also won the prized **VOICE Award**, which is selected by WBEs. Lisa Johnson of UPS was named **Corporate Advocate of the Year** and Keya Grant of Randstad USA won **Corporate Buyer of the Year** for the second consecutive year.

"The LACE Awards is GWBC's most cherished annual event," said Roz Lewis, president & CEO of GWBC. "This is a marked occasion when the organization can demonstrate its gratitude to its constituents for working tirelessly each day in support of women-owned businesses and in support of GWBC's mission. I congratulate all of the night's winners and nominees."

### **2014 LACE Awards**

GWBC's LACE Awards is an annual Black-tie event created to recognize Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina corporate partners and WBEs for their commitment and outstanding contributions to supplier excellence for women owned businesses. In addition to the awards ceremony, GWBC® honors its **Legacy Partners** who have been certified or members of the organization for 10 or more years. LACE also features live entertainment, GWBC LACE Café Matchmaker sessions and the popular GWBC® LACE Awards Reception and Silent Auction.

To get certified, become a corporate member or learn more about the annual LACE Awards, visit [www.gwbc.org](http://www.gwbc.org). For media inquiries, contact Nichole Taylor at [taylor@taylorcommunicationsgroup.com](mailto:taylor@taylorcommunicationsgroup.com).

### **ABOUT THE GREATER WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC.**

The Greater Women's Business Council, Inc. (GWBC®) is a not-for-profit women's organization that provides nationally-recognized certification through its Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) network, innovative programming and value-driven events customized to the unique needs of women business owners (WBEs) in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. GWBC®'s constituency is comprised of more than 900 certified WBEs, dozens of corporate member partners, government entities and business alliances united to inspire, engage and empower women-owned businesses. A Regional Partner Organization of WBENC, GWBC® is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia with a satellite office that services the Carolinas. Learn more and join us at [www.gwbc.biz](http://www.gwbc.biz), <https://www.facebook.com/GWBCLive> and <https://twitter.com/GWBCLive>.