



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
JENNIFER RAWLS
TECW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
615.253.4266**

**Tennessee Economic Council on Women
Recognizes Excellence Across Tennessee**

NASHVILLE, TN (October 21, 2008) – Seven remarkable leaders from across Tennessee are the “E” Award recipients for 2008. The Economic Excellence and Equity Awards (“E” Awards) recognizes women who have made distinguishing contributions to improving the lives of Tennessee’s girls and women.

The awards will be presented during the 5th Annual Economic Summit for Women on October 27, 2008 at the Nashville Airport Marriott.

“A very important part of the Economic Summit is the presentation of the “E” Awards,” said Christi Granstaff, Chair of the “E” Awards program for 2008. “These six recipients are perfect examples of dedicated leaders who make a difference every day in their personal and professional lives. Too often, women are not recognized for the impact of their work and we hope these awards help address that general lack of recognition.”

The 2008 “E” Award recipients are:

Joan Bolden is the Jefferson County Senior Services Director, which includes serving as Director of the Office on Aging and responsibility for the five Senior Centers located in Jefferson County. Ms. Bolden also serves on the East Tennessee ElderWatch Executive Committee, the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency Policy Council, the Jefferson County Council on Aging, the Jefferson County Families First Board, the Jefferson County FEMA Board, the Jefferson County Health Council, the Jefferson County Interagency Council, the Jefferson County Senior Networking Council, the Remote Area Medical Committee, the St. Mary’s Senior Services Advisory Board, and she is the founder of Sharing Christmas in Jefferson County, which serves 700 needy families. Senator Michael Williams will present the award to Ms. Bolden.

Susan Lodal is the President of the Kingsport Board of Education and is currently serving her sixth year on the board. She is also the Chair of the Tennessee Legislative Network, on the Board of Directors, a Master School Board Member and Ambassador for the Tennessee School Boards Association. She is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts of the USA, a third generation member of the American Association of University Women, and was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Ulster Project of East Tennessee—Kingsport. Representative Nathan Vaughn will present the award to Ms. Lodal.

-more-

Council Recognizes Excellence

2

Cynthia Moxley is founder and president of Moxley Carmichael, a public and media relations firm in Knoxville. She has authored two books about Knoxville, is an award-winning journalist for The Knoxville Journal, and was the first female city editor in Knoxville. Ms. Moxley has received numerous awards for her work, including this year's Girl Scouts of Tanasi Council Women of Achievement Award. She has also received the Champion Award from Knoxville Women's Center for having a "woman-friendly" workplace, the Knoxville Women's Center Annie Selwyn Award for Outstanding Women, the Associated Press Managing Editor's Association Malcolm Law Award for Feature Writing, and the Harvey I. Cobert Award for excellence in the practice of public relations from the Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Senator Jamie Woodson will present the award to Ms. Moxley.

Betty Nixon retired from Vanderbilt University in 2007 as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations. Ms. Nixon has also served as Chairman of the Board of the Nashville Electric Service and the Bill Wilkerson Center. She was the Chairman of the Davidson County Election Commission during the 2004 Presidential election. Other leadership roles include Past President of the Women's Breakfast Club and Past Chair of Tennessee Women's Political Caucus. She served on the boards of numerous organizations including the Nashville Business Incubation Center and the Advisory Board of Citizen's Bank of Nashville, Rochelle Center, Oasis Center, League for the Hard of Hearing, the Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee, Project PENCIL and United Way, and the Nashville Institute for the Arts. In 1995, Ms. Nixon was inducted into the Nashville YWCA Academy of Women of Achievement, and in 1998 she received the Athena Award. She has been recognized for her leadership by the Women's Political Caucus, Democratic Women, and CABLE. Representative Janis Sontany will present the award to Ms. Nixon.

Dr. Carolyn Tucker was employed with the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Public Schools from 1969-1999, where she served five years as a classroom teacher, 22 years as a principal, and three years as Director of Elementary Schools. In 2000, Dr. Tucker became part of the Lipscomb University Faculty, serving two years as Director of Graduate Studies in Education. Currently, she is a Visiting Professor in the Education Department of Lipscomb University. In 1999, after retiring from the school system, Dr. Tucker was elected to the Metro Nashville-Davidson County Council, becoming the first African-American woman to be elected as an At-Large member on the Council. As a result of winning an At-Large seat on the Council, Dr. Tucker became the first African-American woman in the history of Davidson County to win a county-wide race. Representative Mary Pruitt will present the award to Dr. Tucker.

Kathy Walsh is the Executive Director of the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. With more than 20 years of experience in crisis intervention, Ms. Walsh provides training and technical assistance to communities, monitors state and federal legislation, and works on public policy issues of concern to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Ms. Walsh co-authored the Domestic Violence Interdiction Law Enforcement Curriculum and the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Curriculum

Council Recognizes Excellence

3

being used by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. She also co-authored the Tennessee Model Law Enforcement Policy and State Standards for Domestic Violence Programs. In her twentieth year as Director of the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Ms. Walsh has successfully advocated for more than 100 new laws to improve safety for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and assisted in the development of domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and community task forces throughout the state. Representative Sherry Jones will present the award to Ms. Walsh.

Mary Wilder serves as Facility Director at MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association) in Memphis. In 2007, she was selected and served as Interim State Representative for District 89, during which time she served on the Agricultural, Children and Family, and Government Operations Committees. Mary's career has been focused on preserving and improving neighborhoods, and children and women's issues. Her work in Memphis is extensive, including service to United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, Memphis Rape Crisis Center (MSARC), Girls Clubs of Memphis, Grant coordinator for the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, the Memphis Area Community Reinvestment Organization, Midtown Political Action Committee, Jackson Avenue Beautification Committee, City Beautiful, MLGW Citizens Advisory Group, City of Memphis Preservation Plan, the West Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, the South Main Arts Festival, and Memphis Heritage, Inc. Senator Beverly Marrero will present the award to Ms. Wilder.

"The "E" Award recipients are role models, mentors, teachers and leaders," said Dr. Carol Berz, Chair of the Economic Council on Women and the Women's Economic Council Foundation. "In addition to their own remarkable achievements, they are all dedicated to helping other women succeed and training our next generation of extraordinary women. Regardless of whether you know them personally, their accomplishments have a great impact on all of us and we are delighted to have the opportunity to recognize them."

The Economic Summit for Women provides women from throughout Tennessee with information to improve their personal and professional lives, and the opportunity to network with others from a variety of backgrounds and careers. This year's program will include former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, internationally-acclaimed author and leadership expert Robin Gerber, and nationally-recognized motivational speaker Delores Pressley.

For more information about the Summit, please visit www.tnwomensummit.org.

###