The Chamber is pleased to announce that the 2019 ATHENA Leadership Awards finalists. This year, the Chamber received more than 60 nominations comprised of outstanding individuals and organizations throughout Palm Beach County. Please see us for the 20th Annual ATHENA Awards Lunch on as we celebrate each finalist’s achievements and honor recipients of our ATHENA Leadership Award, ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award and ATHENA Organization Leadership Award.

The luncheon, presented by Holend, is Sept. 20 at the West Palm Beach Convention Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve an individual ticket or table, please visit www.palmbeaches.org.

For sponsorship information, please contact Michelle Sacher at msacher@palmbeaches.org.

The West Palm Beach Police Department addresses Chamber members on safety protocol in an active shooter situation.

West Palm Beach Police Chief Frank Adderley, Assistant Police Chief Tony Spurrier, Deputy Chief Richard Norris, and SWAT Team Leader Sergeant Randy Nash hosted a Safety Seminar on Aug. 6. They partnered with the West Palm Beach Fire Department’s Riania Cammings and Bryan Lee, both first responders who educated the group on how bystanders can save lives in an active shooter situation by stopping bleeding using a tourniquet made with just a common belt and ink pens. Sergeant Nash emphasized how important it is for organizations to be proactive in their safety awareness, convincing neighbors in a specific and concrete action plan that includes emergency training for all employees, information on where to report any suspicious activity.

Goetz Haggat attended the event and said, “The Active Shooter Seminar provided invaluable information on what employers need to do to protect their employees and customers. Clearly, we as business owners must prepare our employees. In conjunction, we’re advised and the offices of the West Palm Beach Police Department for providing this informative program and assisting local businesses with active shooter preparedness in the unfortunate case of an event.”

Both the Palm Beach County police and EMT departments offer ongoing education programs and resources for local businesses to be prepared, encouraging civilians to reach out to them for more.

For more information on seminars and events, please contact Michelle Sacher at msacher@palmbeaches.org.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Michelle McGovern

Michelle McGovern serves as Director of Government and Community Relations for Baptist Health South Florida, the largest non-profit health care system in Southeast Florida. She previously served as Baptist Health South Florida in 2019, a U.S. Senate Senior Director and was a 13-year veteran of the U.S. Senate.

Michelle is past president of The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches and a loyal member of West Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Central Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce. As a Cape Coral native, McGovern is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University.

Baptist Health South Florida

Howard E.N. (Chip) Wilson

Howard E.N. (Chip) Wilson is Director of Government Affairs for Florida Atlantic University. Wilson serves as a Trustee of the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as a Trustee of Loyola University. Wilson is a 1968 graduate of the University of Maryland, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business and an MBA in finance from Loyola University.

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To enhance school safety, they now have 240 officers and police staff on campus, with 90% of the school population enrolled in the school’s Police Academy. The school also has a partnership with the local police department to provide additional security.

For more information about the Chamber of Commerce, please contact Michelle Sacher at martin@commerceofmcc.com.