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From the Buffalo Business First:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2022/12/20/check-out-the-fourth-idea-inclusion-diversity.html>

Introducing the 2023 IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Award winners

Dec 20, 2022, 10:00am EST

The honorees of the fourth annual IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Awards stand out as champions of diversity and inclusion in their workplaces and in the community.

The awards are presented by Buffalo Business First, along with platinum sponsors M&T Bank and Phillips Lytle LLP.

Twenty people and five organizations were chosen from about 100 nominations and will be honored at a dinner Feb. 15 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

While diversity represents demographic differences such as race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and disability, inclusion means a feeling of belonging and how well employees are valued, respected, accepted and encouraged to participate in an organization.

For information on the awards event, [click here](#).



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IDEA Awards 2023

The following people are being honored:

Karen Brim, clinical pharmacist, Independent Health

LuAnne Brown, CEO, Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network

Sarah Dance, grants administrator, HSBC Bank USA

Wafa Dubashi, ADA/EEO/DBE program coordinator, Niagara
Frontier Transportation Authority

Lenora Foote-Beavers, judge, Buffalo City Court/ acting judge, NYS
Unified Court System-Erie County Family Court

Andrea Griffa Harden, director of human resources, Buffalo AKG
Art Museum

Romunda Harris-Fonville, vice president, business systems analyst
V, M&T Bank

Kristin Heltman-Weiss, president, Providence Farm Collective

Rita Hubbard-Robinson, associate director, UB Center for Health
Equity Research Institute/CEO, Neuwater & Associates LLC

David Johnson, senior director of college prep & Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion coordinator, Buffalo Prep

Alicia Kohlhagen, director of mental health, Evergreen Health

Lindsay Masters, director of academic support and engagement,
Daemen University

Oluwole McFoy, general manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority

Shantelle Patton, founder, That Brown Bag Minority Business
Directory

Curtis Robbins, senior director, social impact, WNY Impact
Investment Fund

Daniel Robertson, program manager for Breaking Barriers, Say Yes
Buffalo

Bradford Watts, associate vice president of community relations
and DE, People Inc.

Alexander Wright, founder/regional manager, African Heritage
Food Co-Op/executive director, African Heritage Economic
Initiative

Rev. Chris Wylie (DJ Pastor Rock), founder, Rolling Nation Network

Sasha Yerkovich, executive director, Canopy of Neighbors

The following organizations are being honored:

Buffalo String Works

Catholic Health

Girl Scouts of Western New York

Irish Classical Theatre Company
WNY Independent Living Center

Michelle Cioci Adams

Managing Editor

Buffalo Business First

