



BREVARD County
Housing & Human Services

Public Information Release

Tammy Harris
Office: 321-633-2007
tammy.harris@brevardcounty.us

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Women of the Year to be Honored by Brevard Commission

VIERA, Fla. - The 2010 Women of the Year have been selected by the Brevard Commission on the Status of Women, and will be honored by the Board of County Commissioners during their regular meeting on March 23.

Lynda Weatherman (business category), Sister Immaculata Knox (education category), Amy Tidd (military category), and Lindsey Walker (young leader) were chosen as women who have made considerable contributions to the community, and who exemplify the national theme for Women's History Month: "Writing Women Back Into History."

Lynda Weatherman has been the president and CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast since 1994, vigorously promoting Brevard County and its economic opportunities. She tirelessly focuses on generating new business activity and retention of existing industry, while keeping abreast of government laws and regulations affecting economic development, all with a goal of creating new jobs in Brevard County. She provides advice to local business and industry, relaying new programs and procedures to assist manufacturing and high-tech companies. Weatherman achieves most of her ambitious goals through trade missions, by promoting international trade, assisting industry in their conversion from defense to commercial markets and encouraging investment along the Space Coast. She has been on the frontlines fighting the impending gap from the transition of the shuttle program to the new Crew Exploration Vehicle, is steadfast in recruitment efforts of new and emerging commercial space opportunities, and organized the NASA Constellation Set-Aside Forum where small businesses were introduced to first- and second-tier prime contractors.

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Sister Immaculata Knox arrived in Brevard County from Ireland on September 1, 1961, just three days prior to opening Ascension Catholic School for six K-5 classes consisting of 335 students. Each year, classes were added to the school, which gave her the opportunity to teach K-8 during her 50-year career. She was selected as a candidate for the Teacher in Space program in 1986; fulfilled her life's ambition by completing a sky dive in 1995; and was honored as the "Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year" in 1999. At the age of 74, Sister Immaculata is far from retired, serving as a member of the Diocesan School Board and as a member of the Diocesan Synod-Catholic Schools Committee; and she is a very gifted artist, donating her watercolors to many civic organizations throughout Brevard County to be auctioned for fundraisers. Presently, she acts in a "pastoral care" position for the parish, ministering to the sick, home-bound, and those in hospitals and nursing homes, as well as the incarcerated at Sharpes Detention Center.

Amy Tidd, a Brevard resident since 1988, was in active-duty military for the U.S. Navy as a Quartermaster in charge of navigation in Newport, Rhode Island, teaching others how to navigate the vessels. She then served in the Navy Reserve, and was transferred to the USS Lexington as Quartermaster. Tidd graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a BA in Political Science, worked in human resources, and became an instructor at Brevard Community College's WENDI Program, teaching career choices and women in transition courses. She is currently the program coordinator of the Adopt-a-Drain program with the Marine Resource Council. Her community involvement includes membership in the Brevard County Citizens Budget Review Committee, and establishing Preserve Brevard for the purpose of buying and preserving some of Brevard's finest habitat. She represents the City of Rockledge on the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Brevard County Transportation Planning Organization.

Lindsey Walker will graduate from Melbourne High School with an International Baccalaureate degree in May 2010. She is involved with the Business Ethics Club and will be participating in the fourteenth annual competition at the Florida Institute of Technology. Walker has completed more than 150 hours of community service, is involved with the Mu Alpha Theta math tutoring club, and is a member of the National Honor Society with a weighted GPA of 4.6.

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The Women of the Year will be recognized at the 18th Annual Commission on the Status of Women Awards and Recognition Banquet, scheduled for Friday, March 26 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Viera. The cost to attend is \$25 per person.

To RSVP or for more information, call Ellen Heuser or Tammy Harris at (321) 633-2007.

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