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**NEW Awards honor Kelly Rolader and**

**NEW Northwest Arkansas region**

Network of Executive Women volunteers honored at Chicago gala

CHICAGO (September 27, 2018) -- NEW Atlanta chair Kelly Rolader of The Coca-Cola Company received the Bobbie O’Hare Award for NEW Regional Leader of the Year and NEW Northwest Arkansas was named Region of the Year at The NEW Awards, Sept. 27 in Chicago. The awards gala, attended by more than 1,000 NEW members, capped the Network of Executive Women’s NEW Leadership Summit 2018.

The NEW Awards, hosted by entertainment journalist Tanika Ray, celebrated the achievements of more than 800 volunteers working to advance women in 21 regions across North America. The evening included a performance by the Chicago Children’s Choir and video congratulations by PepsiCo Inc. Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi.

Rolader “challenges others to discard old practices and reach for something new, something better, something stronger,” said Accenture’s Mike Gorshe, a past NEW Board member who presented the award with NEW Board Member Emeritus Bobbie O’Hare of JOH.

NEW Northwest Arkansas was recognized as Region of the Year for building NEW membership and regional sponsorship by reaching out to men, Millennials and multi-ethnic leaders with specific programming and events. “This region’s leaders are sparking positive change,” NEW President and CEO Sarah Alter said.

The NEW Pathfinder Award, which recognizes a NEW region for finding creative ways to develop women and expand NEW’s influence, was awarded to the volunteer leaders of **NEW Phoenix.**

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The NEW Innovation Award was awarded to NEW Ambassador **Nicole Wright** of Acosta, who also serves as NEW North Texas communications chair.

The NEW Inclusion Award was presented to **Melody Richard** of The Coca-Cola Company for her efforts to engage more men, young leaders and women of color.

**Excellence awards**

NEW also honored five region’s volunteer leaders with achievement awards.

“All of our regional leaders are doing heroic work — planning outstanding events that teach women and men new leadership skills, spread awareness of the career barriers women face, and spur thousands of new professional connections every year,” said NEW Vice Chair of Regions and Managing Director at Accenture, Beth Marrion.

**NEW New York Metro** was recognized for outstanding achievement in engaging and developing the next generation of leaders through college outreach. The award for spreading NEW’s message of gender equality through exceptional programming went to **NEW Cincinnati**. **NEW Northern California** was honored for excellence in establishing mentoring relationships. **NEW Mid-Atlantic** was recognized for the best use of media to grow membership, support the region’s activities and amplify NEW’s message. NEW North Texas was honored for building a strong sponsor community**.**

“I’m so impressed by the commitment to women’s leadership and gender equality displayed by tonight’s honorees,” host Ray said. “There are so many people who have found the courage to, as John Lewis says, ‘Make good trouble.’ They don’t all get awards, but they all should!”

**ABOUT NEW**
Founded in 2001, the Network of Executive Women represents more than 12,000 members, 825 companies, 100 corporate partners and 21 regions in the U.S. and Canada advancing all women and building business. For more information about NEW and its learning programs, events, content and insights, visit newonline.org. Connect with us on social media @NEWnational.

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