

## Fairborn grad named Woman of Influence

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Fairborn Editor

FAIRBORN — **Jeanne Porter**, a 1964 graduate of Fairborn High School formerly known as Gloria Chittum, was inspired to develop an organization for business woman in the Miami Valley and is now being honored by her peers for her work.

Porter, founder and president of Women in Business Networking (WiBN), has been named one of the YWCA's Women of Influence for 2011. She developed WiBN in the fall 2007 after attending a leadership conference in Columbus.



“The camaraderie and support among the women inspired me to start a similar group in the Miami Valley,” Porter said. “I wanted to focus on women in business, but not just those who own their own business. I wanted to include women in the corporate world as well as the non-profit

world.”

After researching networking businesses across the country, Porter held the first Lunch N Learn event in April 2008 with 15-20 women. Now the Lunch N Learns average about 70 attendees, a 300 percent growth rate. They have also been approached to start a group in Clinton County.

“I developed an advisory board of eight women because we were growing so fast I couldn't keep up,” said Porter. “I want to make sure to continue providing opportunities for women to acquire the education, skills and resources necessary to be efficient and grow their businesses.”

The organization provides a forum for building relationships so women will achieve career and personal success through education, resources and recognition. They hold various events throughout the month including Lunch N Learns, Winstitute Leadership Series Workshops, “Hot Topic” Koffee Talks, After5 Showcase events and Entrepreneur Groups.

WiBN is also known for their Top 25 Women to Watch recognition program. The Top 25 Women to Watch is revealed each year in February. This year's “watchables” will be revealed on the WiBN website on Feb. 10.

“This is just a quality group of women who are here to help each other. I could tell success story after success story,” Porter said.

Porter and six other Miami Valley women will be honored at the YWCA Women of Influence awards luncheon on March 10 at the Dayton Convention Center. The award recognizes women who model community spirit, leadership and outstanding volunteerism and who make a difference in the lives of others. The event was first formed in 1998 and is held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

“I was very surprised when I heard about it. It's a wonderful honor,” said Porter. “It's very humbling to be honored by my peers. I look at this opportunity as a platform to continue to reach women and provide them with opportunities for personal and business growth.”

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Nominations were solicited from the community and the honorees were selected by a panel of community leaders. The other 2011 honorees are Yvonne Isaacs, West Coast/Canadian Regional supervisor, NewPage Corporation; Channon Lemon, Executive director, Minority Business Partnerships/Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce; Beth Grimm Whelley, Vice President, Fahlgren Mortine; Martha Moody Jacobs, M.D., Physician, author, community volunteer; Pam Morris, President and CEO, CareSource; and Joan Swenson, Chief Human Resources Officer, Kettering Health Network.

A Lifetime Achievement Award for service to the YWCA is being presented to former Montgomery County commissioner and community volunteer Paula MacIlwaine.

The WOI luncheon is the YWCA's largest annual fundraiser, with proceeds going to address domestic violence, homelessness, child care and affordable housing in the Miami Valley. The public is welcome to attend. More than 1,000 people are expected.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$75 per person or \$140 per person for Grand Patron tickets. WiBN is taking reservations and welcomes members and guests. For more information contact Gail Johnson at 937-609-1900 or Tina Marker at 937-545-9654.

For more information about Women in Business Networking visit [womeninbusinessnetworking.com](http://womeninbusinessnetworking.com).