



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Quad County Urban League to host women business leaders, educators and elected officials at second annual Empowerment Summit

Illinois Commerce Commission's Sherina Edwards and League of Black Women's Sandra Finley to keynote

(Aurora, IL) -- The [Quad County Urban League \(QCUL\)](#) will host its second annual **Women's Empowerment Summit** on Friday, March 18 at the Marriott Oak Brook. The daylong event entitled "**Diversity & Inclusion in the 21st Century Workplace**" will include keynote addresses and panel discussions featuring national, regional and local women leaders. The Summit is designed to bring together seasoned professionals and emerging leaders to interact and share career-expanding advice.

Keynoting the morning session at the QCUL WES will be Commissioner **Sherina Maye Edwards, Esq.** of the [Illinois Commerce Commission \(ICC\)](#). Commissioner Sherina Maye Edwards was appointed to a five-year term on the ICC in 2013. This appointment was historical as she was the youngest commissioner ever appointed in the state of Illinois. Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Edwards practiced as an attorney with the highly ranked international law firm, Locke Lord LLP. Since her appointment to the ICC, she has taken an interest in electric reliability, water, natural gas and critical infrastructure issues.

Sandra Finley, president and board chair of the [League of Black Women](#) will offer the afternoon keynote, focusing on women's economic power. The League of Black Women is the only nonprofit organization that produces ground-breaking research that specifically deals with the challenges — and provides solutions and suggestions — for professional Black women pursuing leadership roles.

During the WES, the QCUL honors women leaders who are making an impact in their field of endeavor. The 2016 Women's Empowerment Summit Honorees are Bridget Carter, Manager, Supplier Diversity, Harrah's Casino; Pat Harris, Global Chief Diversity Officer, McDonald's Corporation; Kristen Ziman, Commander in Chief, Aurora Police Department and Anne Pramaggiore, President & CEO, ComEd.

"Inclusive leaders foster loyal and productive teams and they help create cultures that embrace diversity, thrive on synergy, and produce exponentially high results, said Pramaggiore, lead sponsor for WES. We are pleased to support Theodia and the QCUL in this event that highlights female leadership."

"We believe that in an environment where diversity and inclusion are valued you will also cultivate talent, passion and high standards, said Theodia Gillespie, president and CEO of the Quad County Urban League. The women leaders that will join us for our second annual WES represent that type of leadership and we are excited to showcase it in this daylong forum."

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**Quad County
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

Gender, Women and Democracy, a discussion covering issues and solutions to increasing women's participation in the political process. Confirmed panelists are Senate Candidate Andrea Zopp, Woodridge Mayor Gina Cunningham, U.S. Congressional Representative from the 2nd District Robin Kelly, Naperville Township Supervisor Rachel Ossrya and State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia.

Women Building Wealth: Tips and Tools to Financial, Spiritual and Health Wellness. This panel will offer resources and practical information to help women achieve balance, independence and self-sufficiency without fear. Panelists include Norma Williams, president of NJW Consulting; Shirley Ann Robertson, Prudential; Andrea Oden Wilson, Comcast; Karen Wells, The Goddard School.

Am I My Sister's Keeper? This panel will explore the benefits and impact of mentoring versus sponsoring emerging leaders. Participating are Barbara Bates, Bates Designs; Kimberly Jackson, Chair Community Relations Council, Nalco; Alicia Bowen, Alicia Bowens, Inc.; Laura Neiberg, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital; Dr. Christine Sobek, President Waubonsee Community College.

Emceeding the morning portion of the event will be NBC5 Chicago's Regina Waldroup.

The daylong event begins with a continental breakfast at 7:15. Tickets are \$100 each and sponsorships are welcome. For more information or to purchase sponsorships or tickets e-mail events@qcul.org or call 630-851-2203.

About The Quad County Urban League

Founded in 1975, the Quad County Urban League (QCUL) helps secure equal opportunities for all disadvantaged persons and people of color, including African Americans, women and persons with disabilities. Quad County Urban League is an affiliate of the National Urban League and is a United Way member agency. The QCUL serves DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties in Illinois. Visit www.qcul.org for more information.

About ComEd

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider, with approximately 7.8 million customers. ComEd provides service to approximately 3.8 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population. For more information, visit ComEd.com, and connect with the company on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

About The League of Black Women

The LBW is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1970 by civil rights advocate and educator Dr. Arnita Young Boswell. Today, LBW is the preeminent expert on Black women's leadership. Our goal is to advance a national agenda for Black women and to assure they are able to emerge within their families, communities and workplaces as exceptional leaders with distinctive, substantial and lasting influence on the decisions that shape our world. For more info visit www.leagueofblackwomen.org

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