



Wednesday, September 13, 2023

BWP Pillar Awards - #BraveryInAction

Please fill out this form to nominate a Brave Woman for the 2023 Pillar Awards. This Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, November 17 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Greentree Doubletree Hotel, Pittsburgh. All finalists are expected to attend the event. Nominees can be from the Pittsburgh region or anywhere in the nation. Please note: BWP does not pay for travel or accommodations for honorees. Nominators and nominees do not have to be a member of Brave Women Project. BWP is not compatible with Network Marketing/MLM companies. Learn more about BWP at <https://www.bwp.life/>.

Your name George McClure
Your company National Kidney Foundation Serving the Alleghenies
Your title Transplant Advocate
Your phone number (412) 417-4360
Your email address georgemcclure@gmail.com

Please send me information on becoming a member of Brave Women Project.

YES

See the full descriptions here:
<https://www.bwp.life/>

Encourage - The Cheerleader - She excels in guiding other women and supporting their endeavors.

Nominee's name Christine McClure
Nominee's email address clm244@pitt.edu
Nominee's phone number (412) 901-4574
Nominee's company University of Pittsburgh
Nominee's title Senior Research Scientist

Describe how the nominee excels in their career or profession. (max 500 words)

Dr. Christine Lynn McClure was a single mother of two by the age of 22. Christine always planned to attend college, but with two young sons, it was extremely difficult, so she attended a two-year school. However, her dream to graduate from college was still strong, and she found out she could attend college through a special agreement with Point Park University. Christine was accepted, and she worked full-time during the day and attended classes at Point Park University at night, completing her degree in Health Services Administration (1998). She returned to Point Park a year later to complete her MBA one weekend a month over the course of a year (2000). The journey was far from easy as Christine battled periods of homelessness brought about by domestic violence. During that time, Christine and her family were estranged, and she had to depend on the kindness of her friends to help her each day. She worked for Highmark, and then UPMC as she worked to complete her education and find stability for herself and her

children.

In 2000, Christine landed a job at the University of Pittsburgh as a grant administrator in the School of Public Health where she managed a 20-million-dollar federal grant and 10 sites across 7 states. In 2008, Christine was promoted to a grants and contracts officer in the Office of Sponsored Programs. In this role, she was responsible for the oversight of more than one hundred million dollars in federal and non-federal grant funding for the University. After only three years in that role, in 2011, she was promoted to Associate Director for Grants Management responsible for all incoming federal in non-federal grants to the University. In 2017, Christine was promoted to lead a 4-million-dollar research administration infrastructure modernization project, that changed the way that the University of Pittsburgh processes and managed all sponsored research funding.

In 2018, after seven years of being enrolled in a doctoral program, Christine graduated with her doctorate in education. In 2021, Christine was promoted into her current role as a Senior Research Scientist, where she is an expert in disparities research and an experienced qualitative researcher whose research interests include the intersectional experiences of women of color in various contexts including higher education, healthcare, public health, and child welfare to inform the creation of more equitable spaces, policies, and practices.

Christine's passion for women, especially in higher education is demonstrated by her commitment to helping women of color complete their doctoral degrees. Christine serves as an adjunct faculty and doctoral mentor, at the University of Miami, School of Education. She has also mentored other women at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University. Christine also serves as a steering committee member for the American College of Education, Women's, as a grant reviewer for the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and as a member of the Staff Council.

Christine is a published author, speaker, DEI expert, and serves on several local and regional committees that intersect with her research.

Tell us why you chose Engage, Encourage, Empower, Educate, or Evolve for the woman you're nominating and how this woman embodies this characteristic. (max 500 words)

Christine truly embodies the characteristics of the Encourager as she is always working to support, elevate, and celebrate women. Christine serves as a mentor to young women through several organizations, including, the Women's Leadership and Mentoring Programs (WLMP) at Robert Morris University, where Christine works as a mentor to young women enrolled in the WLMP. This past semester, Christine was asked by the WLMP to be the keynote speaker at their annual WLMP Networking Event. At that event, Christine met other professional women mentors working with the WLMP and has since been working to develop a partnership with them to increase their impact and reach with the WLMP. In addition, Christine mentors women through Strong Women Strong Girls at the University of Pittsburgh and will be a Role Model in Residence this fall providing programming for young elementary school girls. Christine also serves as a member of the volunteer and ambassador committee for PA Women Work. Christine has previously served as a mentor through PantherReach, and as the chair of the mentoring committee on the African American Alumni Council Board both at the University of Pittsburgh.

As a former single mother, Christine understands the hardships that single mothers face and is proud to represent When She Thrives, an organization that is dedicated to moving single mothers from poverty to prosperity, as the board chair, a role she has occupied for more than two years. In this role, Christine has had the opportunity to become involved in other programs, such as EmployHer, an initiative that When She Thrives, Dress for Success, and New Century Careers created to support the women of Pittsburgh as they work to become self-sufficient. Christine currently serves as a mentor to three women through this program, with plans to continue on until the program ends.

Does your nominee participate in any nonprofit or volunteer work? Please provide the organization name, position (team mother, troop leader, member / volunteer, donation solicitor, board member, etc.), length of service, and indicate if this is a current or past role.

Christine has a passion for community service which she demonstrates through her involvement in and support of multiple organizations in Pittsburgh and beyond. Christine is the Board Chair for When She Thrives, an organization that focuses on single mothers. Christine's other board service includes A Giving Heart, the African American Alumni Association at the University of Pittsburgh, the Point Park Alumni Council, and the Point Park Alumni Council.

Christine also works as a mentor for young college-age women, through Strong Women, Strong Girls, PA Women Work, the Women's Leadership and Mentoring Program at Robert Morris University, and EmployHer Pittsburgh,

This spring, Christine was named a ChangeMaker by Multiplying Good, where she supports the Students in Action (SIA) across the region to develop and execute service projects.

Christine serves in other service roles through her involvement in the following organizations: Staff Association at Pitt, Women's Leadership Council of the United Way, American Council of Education (ACE) Women's Leadership Network, Florida, the Child Wellbeing Research Network, a steering committee member for the Financial Recovery Board for the Penn Hills School District, as a grant and fellowship reviewer for American Association of University Women (AAUW), she conducts peer reviews for the following journals, Contingencies: A Journal of Global Pedagogy, The Carnegie Project of the Education Doctorate, and the Journal for Underrepresented Minority Progress. She has served as a planning committee member and a track chair for the Society for Research Administrators.

List any other awards your nominee has won or been nominated for – year, award name, organization presenting the award.

Christine has been recognized for her outstanding commitment to serving women and girls across the Pittsburgh region as she received the following awards in 2023:

Jefferson Award for Service from Multiplying Good Pittsburgh
Ladies Who Lead Award from the Professional Women's Network (PWN)
Strong Award from Strong Women Strong Girls Pittsburgh
William A.G. Fisher Lifetime Achievement Award from the State of Black Learning
Athena Award 2023 Finalist from the Pittsburgh Technology Council

Tell us how your nominee exemplifies our Four Pillars for Growth - Professionalism (learn, grow, and develop together); Impact (be a part of something bigger); Relationships (create valued personal, professional, and mentoring relationship); and Wellness (prioritize physical and mental health). (max 500 words)

These four pillars describe the way that Christine attempts to live her life. As someone who has experienced many hardships and traumas, Christine is always looking for ways to grow and develop into a better version of herself. She believes wholeheartedly in the importance of addressing past trauma and meets with her therapist regularly to better understand what drives her behaviors and to develop healthy skills and strategies to live a full and well-balanced life. Christine's passion is to elevate women, and she believes that there is important work to do that is bigger than herself. She is fueled by the relationships and interactions she regularly has that remind her of her purpose. She recognizes how important it is to have a strong support system, something that she credits for getting her through her hard years. Finally, while Christine works hard, she also believes in taking time out to enjoy life and to remember what is important, her family and friends. She loves to spend time with family and loves to host events at her home, especially for the holidays. She is an avid traveler and loves to see the world via cruise ship. She has several hobbies including running, crafting, dancing, and writing.