



Mary Ellen Stanek Award for Diversity in Corporate Governance Announces Two Winners in 2021

Ellen Gilligan, of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and ManpowerGroup are chosen honorees

MILWAUKEE- The Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) in conjunction with Milwaukee Women inc (MWi), awarded the eighth annual Mary Ellen Stanek Award for Diversity in Corporate Governance to Ellen Gilligan, president and CEO of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and ManpowerGroup on February 8 at the GMC's Annual Monthly Membership Meeting. The Mary Ellen Stanek Award is given to an individual or entity demonstrating a commitment to promoting equity and inclusion in their corporate structure resulting in increased gender and racial diversity in leadership and on corporate boards in the Milwaukee Region.

Past winners include the award's namesake Mary Ellen Stanek, Managing Director of Baird; Linda Gorens-Levey, partner at General Capital Group; Gale Klappa, Executive Chairman of WEC Energy Group; John Daniels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Quarles & Brady; and Gina Peter, Executive Vice President of Wells Fargo. Previous corporate winners include Northwestern Mutual, Associated Bank, and Aurora Healthcare.

Ellen Gilligan was recognized for her ongoing efforts to address matters related to gender and social justice through her leadership of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Gilligan is also engaged in the community through her leadership on different boards and has proven to have a strong understanding of how to build models for organizations and initiatives to follow that increase diversity and address social justice issues.

Included in Gilligan's most recent work is spearheading efforts to launch the ThriveOn Collaboration in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and Royal Capital Group. The initiative will provide a community hub that contributes to transformational change in the Halyard Park, Brewers Hill and Harambee neighborhoods. She is also co-chair of MKE United, which has launched an Anti-Displacement Fund designed to help prevent gentrification of long-time residents by offsetting rising tax bills in neighborhoods experiencing increased property values brought about by downtown Milwaukee development.

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Mary Ellen Stanek Award
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ManpowerGroup is an internationally recognized leader in diversity and inclusion practices. The company is also committed to gender parity and conscious inclusion with 45 percent of the company's Board of Directors being female – an industry high. Additionally, women make up nearly 65% of the company and hold 59% of all management positions and 37% of senior leadership roles globally. ManpowerGroup remains committed to hiring, retaining, developing and advancing more women into leadership and to progressing its goal of 40% women in leadership by 2024, something that current leaders in the organization are regularly measured on.

ManpowerGroup is committed to resetting bold targets to increase representation of People of Color at all levels – particularly in leadership and delivery. In Milwaukee, the company is committed to achieving 15% and 25% representation in the total workforce and leadership respectively by 2025.

“Ellen Gilligan and Manpower are leaders who not only support, but have taken meaningful actions to advance equity and inclusion in the workplace and our community. The 2021 Mary Ellen Stanek Award recognizes their significant role in demonstrating the impact gender and racial diversity can have in the growth and success of Wisconsin companies and organizations,” said Pat Ackerman, Senior Vice President of A.O. Smith Corporation and Chair of MWi.

MWi and the GMC Future Workforce Committee review nominees for the Mary Ellen Stanek Award on an annual basis, and the award is announced and granted to the recipient(s) at the GMC's annual membership meeting.

About the Greater Milwaukee Committee

The Greater Milwaukee Committee comprises 200 passionate CEOs who work together to make Milwaukee the best place to live, learn, work and play. Currently led by President Julia Taylor and Chair David Lubar, the GMC creates new ideas and implements solutions in innovation and talent, economic prosperity and vibrancy of place. For more information, please visit gmconline.org.

About Milwaukee Women inc

Milwaukee Women inc is a nonprofit organization dedicated to achieving balanced representation of women on boards of directors to maximize the performance of Wisconsin businesses. The group carries out annual research and produces an annual report on the gender diversity of the boards and C-suites of Wisconsin's 50 largest public and private companies. MWi promotes awareness on the benefits of gender diversity and offers educational programs to increase the number of qualified women board candidates. For more information, please visit milwaukeeewomeninc.org.

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