

Pocono Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Awards Reception

By Sierra Lefurgy / Pocono Chamber of Commerce

STROUDSBURG, PA - The Pocono Chamber of Commerce, a proud partner of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, hosted the annual Women in Business Awards Reception on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. It was a night to celebrate outstanding female leaders and entrepreneurs making a difference throughout Monroe County.

The Pocono Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Scholarship recognizes a Monroe County female who has demonstrated a commitment to learning, empowering others, and community service. The scholarship assists young women in their pursuit of higher education. This year's recipient is Katelynn Martini. Katelynn is a current senior at Pleasant Valley High School and enrolled in the Culinary Program at Monroe Career and Technical Institute. She plans to attend Northampton Community College next fall.

The 2025 Woman in Business Award shall honor a female leader who inspires and motivates other women to reach their full potential. This honoree will demonstrate excellence and initiative, both personally and professionally. This year's nominees were: Dr. Akia Sheema Blandon with New Beginnings Healthcare, Amanda Alappat with SPARK, Amanda Counterman with Cozy Kitty Cafe, Breanna Betarie with East Stroudsburg University, Cindy Carr Knecht with Carr Realty of the Poconos, Courtney Quaresimo with Quantifi Media,

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Valley Youth House Advocates for Students Experiencing Homelessness

By Valley Youth House

Harrisburg, PA - Valley Youth House (VYH) joined state lawmakers, education partners, and youth leaders at the Pennsylvania Capitol to advocate for increased funding to support students experiencing homelessness. Representing frontline providers, Quadirah Locus, Supervisor of VYH's Synergy in Schools program, spoke to the urgent need to provide additional funding to the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) office.

Quadirah thanked Representatives Ismail Smith-Wade-El and Gina Curry for inviting VYH to speak in support of House Resolution 337, a resolution designating the week of November 17 through 21, 2025, as "Pennsylvania Education for Students Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 21, 2025, as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania, and highlighted the

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"Steve DeFranco Sr.,
Veteran of the Year for 2025"
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Honoring Northampton
County Centenarians
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60 years of service
Bushkill Emergency Corps.
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Record-Breaking Turnout at
St. Luke's D&L RaceFest
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