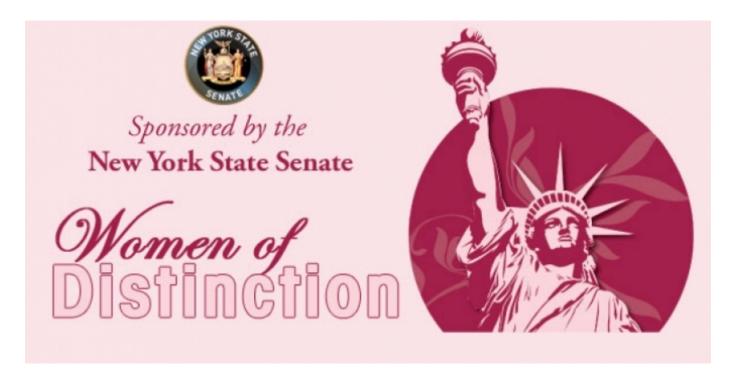


CALLING ALL AMAZING WOMEN: RITCHIE NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR "WOMEN OF DISTINCTION" PROGRAM

PATTY RITCHIE March 3, 2016

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DOWNLOAD A NOMINATION FORM HERE

State Senator Patty Ritchie is now accepting nominations for the New York State Senate's "Women of Distinction" program, a special initiative aimed at honoring women's history in the Empire State by recognizing the achievements of trailblazers from today.

"In recent years, I've been so humbled to recognize the tremendous achievements and contributions made by women living here in Central and Northern New York through the Women of Distinction program," said Senator Ritchie.

"This year, I'm looking forward to once again shining a light on all the good local women are doing to improve our region and make a difference in the lives of those who live here.

Women living in the 48th Senate District, including Oswego, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, are eligible to be recommended for the honor. Family, friends or coworkers are invited to make nominations by downloading a nomination on Senator Ritchie's website—www.ritchie.nysenate.gov— or by calling (315) 782-3418 to have a form mailed to them. The deadline for nominations is March 28th. All nominees will be invited to a local recognition ceremony to be held on April 7th.

Last year, Senator Ritchie honored more than 20 individuals through the "Women of Distinction" program. To learn more about last year's honorees, click here.

Senator Ritchie's Women of Distinction program continues her efforts to support women living in our region. Last year, she formed the Upstate Women's Leadership Council, a group made up of local leaders that aims to increase opportunities for women's personal and professional advancement, as well as inspire the next generation of change makers.

In addition, Senator Ritchie also serves as "Delegate-at-Large" of the Legislature's bipartisan Women's Caucus, a group that seeks to improve the participation of women in government, supporting issues affecting women across the state and providing a network of support for women serving in the State Legislature.