



# *Dorothy Baker*

## LEADERSHIP

# TORCH

### AWARDS PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE

EXCELLENCE

# Dorothy Baker

## LEADERSHIP TORCH AWARDS PROGRAM



## ABOUT WOMEN GROW STRONG, INC.

Women Grow Strong, Inc. (WINGS) is a not-for-profit women and young adult support group that provides training, counseling, development and discipleship. WINGS helps to sow seeds of mercy, grace, provision and love into the hearts and souls of women seeking empowerment, self esteem and confidence. The overall goal of Women Grow Strong, Inc., is to help develop, build and sustain women's contributions and goals in society through educational training, counseling and business development initiatives for both teens and adults. Topics ranging from health and fitness to image and business etiquette will be addressed through workshops and intensive sessions. It is the belief of the program's developers that once women become empowered, they become better mothers, wives and overall contributors to society.

## ABOUT DOROTHY BAKER

Dorothy Baker was the first woman to head the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce (MDCOC), established in the early 70's as a measure to increase Black Business in the city of Miami and throughout its surrounding communities in Dade County. The Chamber is perhaps one of America's largest and most prestigious Black Chambers today.

Ms. Baker served as president and chief executive officer of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce from 1984 – 2004. In this role, she made every moment count for the betterment of business opportunities for entrepreneurial businesses. With a solid educational background, she epitomized the consummate educator, leader and professional woman. She was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She also earned a Master of Education Degree from the University of Massachusetts. Additionally, she furthered her studies at such prestigious institutions including Carnegie Institute, Stetson University, the University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University and Bethune Cookman College. Other professional roles of Dorothy Baker included: Coordinator of the Title III Federal Programs and Community relations at Florida Memorial University, one of Florida's historical black colleges; and Director of FMC's Upward Bound Federal program. Ms. Baker also served as a professional teacher in the school system throughout the state of Florida, including Rosenwald & Midway Elementary Schools in Sanford; Frances K. Sweet Elementary School in Ft. Pierce; and Wallace M. Quinn High School in Apalachicola.

Subsequent to her role as head of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, Dorothy Baker served as the Area Development Director for the United Negro College Fund. There she recruited, trained, organized and worked with volunteers in 15 counties throughout Southern parts of Florida. She was a loving wife, devoted mother, and honored business hero who was truly admired, loved and respected by all. In honor of her legacy, Women Grow Strong, Inc. has created the Dorothy Baker Leadership Torch Awards.

## ABOUT THE WOMEN GROW STRONG, INC. DOROTHY BAKER LEADERSHIP TORCH AWARDS

The Dorothy Baker Leadership Torch Awards Program recognizes businesses for their performance, excellence and entrepreneurship across a number of categories, providing them with an opportunity to be acknowledged by their peers and the community at large. The awards are open to all women-owned businesses operating in the South Florida area. Winners will receive gift contributions valued between \$500 to \$5,000 in form of cash and in kind media and pr services, as provided by our partners, Black PR Wire and Sonshine Communications.



## NOMINATION PROCESS

Any business or community leader may submit a nominations. Nominations must be submitted using enclosed WINGS nomination form. Photographs of the nominee and any applicable projects mentioned as part of the nomination should accompany your submission form, if available.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Completed nomination forms must be received no later than **February 23, 2018.**

Nominations should be sent to the attention of:

**Bernadette Morris**

President & CEO

**Women Grow Strong, Inc.**

152 NE 167th Street, Suite 403

Miami, FL 33162

[bmorris@womengrowstrong.com](mailto:bmorris@womengrowstrong.com)

T: 305-948-8063 • F: 305-948-9563





## AWARD CRITERIA

The award criteria includes an entrepreneurial or established business that has achieved professional excellence within its respective industry. Nominees must meet the following business criteria:

- **Demonstrate endurance** – Has been in business for at least one year.
- **Strive for excellence** – Never becomes complacent and always aims to think out-of-the-box and accomplish tasks in new ways.
- **Exude leadership** – Continues to lead your business enterprise down the right path in an effort to expand your business reach.
- **Committed to the cause** – Continues to make contributions that foster vitality within the industry and capitalizes on new or changing opportunities in innovative ways.

## AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominees can choose to nominate a business in one of the following categories:

### **Category 1: Start Up Business of the Year**

The Startup Business of the Year Award will be given to the business that has recently started, but has shown significant growth and expansion.

### **Category 2: Small Business of the Year**

The Small Business of the Year Award will be given to the business that thrives in every respect. It must demonstrate a commitment to customers, strong leadership, local community advocacy, and a passion for innovation.

### **Category 3: Female Entrepreneur of the Year**

The Female Entrepreneur of the Year Award is given to a female business owner who inspired and encourage others. Nominees should demonstrate that they are a committed leader of a successful growing business, with a flair for entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility and an inspiration to the workforce.



# NOMINATION FORM



## NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Name of the Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name of the Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# NOMINATION FORM

- Category:** ☐ **1: Start Up Business of the Year**  
☐ **2: Small Business of the Year**  
☐ **3: Female Entrepreneur of the Year**

1. Tell us about the business and explain why this individual should be the winner. The more facts you provide, the better your chances of winning.

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2. Tell us what makes this business and person unique.

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3. Tell us about the business markets, how it is defined and how you sell it is marketed to customers. Also explain how you use social media to broaden your customer base and secure business.

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# NOMINATION FORM



4. Tell us, how you ensure a consistent standard of service, and what processes and quality standards you have in place.

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5. Tell us what makes your business deserving of the award category for which you are applying.

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Please return the nomination form no later than **February 23, 2018** to **Bernadette Morris** at [bmorris@womengrowstrong.com](mailto:bmorris@womengrowstrong.com) or mail to **Women Grow Strong, Inc.**, 152 NE 167th Street, Suite 403, Miami, FL 33162.