

press release



GAMMA PHI BETA
FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KAREN POSSEHL RECOGNIZED WITH GAMMA PHI BETA FOUNDATION'S
2016 PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Centennial, Colorado – The Gamma Phi Beta Foundation presented Karen Possehl with its highest distinction, the Philanthropist Award at the Sorority's 77th biennial Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The award acknowledges members who have impacted lives through altruism over and above their contributions to Gamma Phi Beta.

Karen Possehl has been integrally involved with the Sewall Child Development Center Board of Directors since 1986, serving on the Development Committee for six years and as Vice President for three years. She and her husband, Jim, served as co-chairs for their capital campaign to raise money for a new facility.

In the mid-nineties, Possehl was on the Board of Directors for the Women's Foundation of Denver, serving on the Grants Committee for three years. While on this committee, she learned of a scholarship program that the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs wanted to start for abused women students. Possehl joined efforts with the university and helped start this program which has evolved to providing opportunities for talented and deserving non-traditional female students (generally 25 and over) who have had barriers to completing their education.

Possehl and her husband established the Karen Possehl Women's Endowment which not only provides financial support for this program but pairs the scholars with a mentor in the business community, leadership development workshops throughout the year and support for childcare expenses if needed. Since 1996, the endowment has awarded 162 scholarships. These women have received \$927,385 in scholarship support.

Possehl has also served on the boards of the Hospice of St. John, Kempe Child Abuse Center and the Arapahoe Library Foundation.

The Philanthropist Award is Gamma Phi Beta Foundation's most prestigious honor. Established in 2000, the award is given at each Convention and recognizes members whose outstanding philanthropic endeavors outside of Gamma Phi Beta have made a tremendous difference in the lives of others.

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About The Gamma Phi Beta Foundation

Established in 1959, the Gamma Phi Beta Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support and inspire the lifelong development of women. The Foundation provides charitable and educational funding for leadership development, financial aid for members and philanthropic opportunities for Building Strong Girls; the Foundation has distributed \$12.5 million to date.

About Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority

Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority was founded in 1874 at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. The Sorority's mission is to inspire the highest type of womanhood. Headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, the Sorority has chartered 185 collegiate chapters across the United States and Canada, and has more than 200,000 collegiate and alumnae members worldwide.

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