



# The Athena Effect

May 14, 2019 | #TheAthenaEffect

## 2019 PINNACLE AWARDS

**A night of fun, food, music and inspiration  
had everyone feeling #TheAthenaEffect**

This reimagined event was, by all indicators, the most fun, festive and successful Pinnacle Awards to date.

Held on the beautiful Qualcomm campus, the indoor/outdoor venue, lively music and delicious food stations throughout, made for easy and relaxed networking.

Guests were greeted by Sony's robotic dog Aibo, and were treated to the alt-folk-pop sounds of the band, [Streetlight Cadence](#), throughout the networking portion of the evening.

Once gathered in the theater, Vicki Mealer-Burke, Qualcomm's Chief Diversity Officer, delivered opening remarks, followed by Athena CEO Holly Smithson welcoming guests.

Holly shared Athena's bold new mission to

widen the bridge and empower 1 MILLION WOMEN LEADING IN STEM by 2030 and claimed this moment as "OUR TIME!"

The highlight of the evening, our [2019 Pinnacle Scholarship recipients](#) (learn more about them below) shared their incredible accomplishments.

After a standing ovation from the crowd celebrating the inspiring Pinnacle Scholarship recipients, it was time for the big moment: the announcement of the 2019 Pinnacle Awards winners. This year's impressive list of nominees made for a challenging task for the judges, but the winners truly exemplify what it means to be a woman leading in STEM.

In the words of Athena CEO Holly Smithson, the 2019 Pinnacle Award winners are "crushing it Athena-style!"

**CONGRATULATIONS 2019 PINNACLE AWARD WINNERS**

Individual in Service

**PAMELA  
GARDNER**

Founder, BVS

Individual in Life Sciences

**SHEILA  
GUJRATHI**

President & CEO  
Gossamer Bio, Inc.

Individual in Technology

**MARY  
GENDRON**

Senior Vice President & CIO  
Qualcomm

Rising Star

**KYLIE  
TAITANO**

Software Engineer  
Intuit

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about these gender equality change agents.

We deeply value your input and invite you to provide feedback about the 2019 Pinnacle Awards

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

## GET TO KNOW OUR 2019 PINNACLE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Marisa Beresford**  
Academy of Our Lady of Peace

**Jeanette Chen**  
Monte Vista High School

**Gillian Folk**  
Academy of Our Lady of Peace

**Rachel Kulchar**  
Carlsbad High School

**Aida Razavilar**  
Canyon Crest Academy

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about these incredible young women.

### THE ATHENA FOUNDATION Empowering the Next Generation of Women Leading in STEM

Pinnacle scholarships are awarded to high-school seniors planning to enter a four-year university to study in the STEM fields. Outstanding applicants are well-rounded women who've demonstrated academic excellence, leadership in school organizations, and community involvement.

DRIVEN BY COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
The Athena Foundation is proud to champion the next generation of women leaders in STEM through its Annual Pinnacle Scholarships.

[Donate to the Athena Foundation](#)

## We would like to sincerely thank our 2019 PINNACLE AWARDS SPONSORS

These companies actively support the women of STEM and Athena's mission to widen the bridge and empower 1 million women leading in STEM by 2030.

TITLE SPONSOR  
**Qualcomm**

PRESENTING SPONSOR  
**SONY**

  
ALEXANDRIA

  
**accenture**

  
**EY** Building a better  
working world

**intuit.**

 MARSH & McLENNAN  
COMPANIES

**Viasat**

  
BIO  
THERANOSTICS

**M**  
MINTZ

  
A  Sempra Energy utility®

  
SAN DIEGO  
BUSINESS  
JOURNAL

**San Diego**  
MAGAZINE

**Winkler**  
Designs 

## Final Call for FEW Group Applications! DEADLINE: MAY 17

One of Athena's most popular member benefits is Forum for Executive Women (FEW). The program matches you with a peer group of 8-10 women from noncompeting companies, but with shared goals and focus, to meet on a regular basis and provide structured business and personal support and direction. It's your own, personal Board of Directors.

[Learn More &](#)

## **BREAKING NEWS** **Athena and The New York Academy of Sciences Announce Partnership at the United Nations**

Athena and the New York Academy of Sciences announce their partnership on a new strategic initiative to advance gender equality during the United Nations 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

This jointly developed program, named the Athena Assembly, will convene a three-year consortium of 15 to 20 global companies to establish, pilot, implement and publish a road map for achieving diversity and inclusion in the STEM workplace.

Answering the call from STEM companies struggling to meet workforce gender and diversity goals, the Athena Assembly will deliver data driven tools and methodologies that companies can implement as they seek to attract and retain female talent and achieve their diversity and inclusion goals.

“As the data demonstrates, a diverse workforce leads to better products faster revenue growth and higher company valuations, and illustrates the competence of a company’s

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leadership team,” said Holly Smithson, Athena CEO. “This initiative will empower companies with the means to transform their workplace and enjoy the proven business rewards associated with a diverse workforce.”

ATHENA'S TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP  
PRESENTS

## Bringing AI and ML from Idea to Practice with Real-World Applications

Join us for four lightning talks with San Diego's top AI/ML technologists sharing how they use AI and ML to build applications. It promises to be an intriguing and interactive evening as our experts share details about the resources they used to get started and the skills needed for a career in Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning. After the lightning talks, stick around for a Q&A session with the panelists.

**May 30 | 5:30 - 8:30**

Intuit | 7535 Torrey Santa Fe Rd.

**MEMBER BENEFIT: SAVE 20%  
If You Register Before May 23**

\$35 Members  
\$55 Non-Members  
*Sponsored members  
complimentary with code*

**REGISTER**

ATHENA'S ASSOCIATE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (ASIG) PRESENTS

## What Role Can Mental Toughness & Resilience Play in Your Career?

While every career path is unique, most have one thing in common – plenty of challenges along the way. Jim and Riley Pathman will teach you to appreciate challenges as opportunities and to identify creative solutions, craft your personal style, and prove your resilience. Learn why it pays to be tough and get ready to laugh, (maybe) cry, and master the art of mental toughness.

**June 4 | 5:30 - 8:30** | Thermo Fisher Scientific | 5823 Newton Drive, Carlsbad, CA

**MEMBER BENEFIT: SAVE 20% if You Register Before May 28**

\$35 Members | \$55 Non-Members  
*Sponsored members complimentary with code*

**REGISTER**



*Jim (pictured above) and his twin sons, Riley and Shane, refuse to let cerebral palsy stop them from competing in triathlons.*

