



# The Athena Effect

June 25, 2019 | #TheAthenaEffect

## Athena Wins *CEO of the Year* Award

Athena CEO, Holly Smithson is awarded “CEO of the Year” in the non-profit category for *San Diego Business Journal’s* 2019 awards.

The *CEO of the Year* awards recognizes industry leaders for achievements in both their companies and community. The 6 winners and 130 finalists are lauded for demonstrating determination and insight yielding high impact for their companies and the local economy.



“It’s a distinct honor to help shape our region as a destination for diversity as more companies recognize diversity as the most consequential element of modern business. If we look at the chief executives at the Airport Authority, the Port, the *SD Business Journal*, California’s U.S. Senators, SD City Council President Pro-Tem, California’s Senate Pro-Tem and our District Attorney...you’ll note, we’re all institutional She-E-Os. Clearly, this region is carving out its competitive advantage,” said Smithson.

The CEO of the Year award features 5 additional categories include Rising Star, Business Nonprofit, Privately Held Company, Public Company and Family-Owned Business.

## #CelebratingYou

### SDBJ CEO of the Year Finalists include:

- Jaye Connolly-LaBelle, CEO, RippleNami, Athena Board Member
- Shaina Gross, President & CEO, Susan G. Komen San Diego, Athena Member
- Dr. Karen Haynes, President, California State University, San Marcos, Athena Corporate Sponsor
- Dr. Lauren Lek, CEO of Academy of Our Lady of Peace, Athena Corporate Sponsor
- Steve Mollenkopf, CEO, Qualcomm Incorporated, Athena Corporate Sponsor

## MEMBER BENEFIT THE ATHENAEUM

The Athenaeum is a members-only, digital treasure trove that contains all Athena’s leadership programs. Did you miss an event you wished you could’ve attended? Are you eager to access content or simply want to watch it again?

## #WomenofSTEM, Let's Get Social!

If you're not following Athena on social media, you're missing out on:

- Athena's #CelebratingYou campaign, giving you the opportunity to share with, and cheer on, your peers
- #SupportingWomeinInSTEM posts to learn about, and engage with, the companies that actively support women leading in STEM
- News, information, inspiration and motivation
- Behind the scenes exclusives from Athena events

Like, tag, comment and repost when we talk about local, state, and national news, share motivation and inspiration, member profiles and updates, and post live at Athena programs on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for photos, updates and behind the scenes exclusives, and subscribe on [YouTube](#) for EmpowerMinute and Blueprint for Success vlogs.

Be sure to use our hashtag, #TheAthenaEffect, as you share your accomplishments or company news, words of wisdom from our speakers, or photos from Athena programs. Click [here](#) to drop us an email so we can #CelebrateYou by sharing news of your new job, promotion or board appointment.

Your voice matters and engaging with you, sharing in your accomplishments and staying connected is a vital part of our mission as we march towards the goal of widening the bridge to empower 1 million women leading in STEM by 2030.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### [JULY 25](#)

DISTINGUISHED  
SPEAKER SERIES  
Karyn Schoenbart,  
NPD CEO and author of  
Mom.B.A

### [AUGUST 14](#)

LSIG ANNUAL  
SUMMER WINE SOCIAL

### [AUGUST 22](#)

ON BOARDS SERIES  
Workshop 2:  
Formulate Your Board  
Placement Action Plan

Click [here](#) or scroll down to learn more about these exciting upcoming Athena programs

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

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



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**JULY 25 | 5:30 - 8:00**

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES  
FEATURING

## Karyn Schoenbart

How many of us wear multiple hats including mother and corporate executive? How many of us struggle to crack the code of mastering this perennial juggling act?

On July 25, Athena and Sony present distinguished speaker Karyn Schoenbart to divulge her success strategies as a mom, an acclaimed author and CEO of a publicly-traded tech company. Karyn's tightrope act is sure to enlighten many of us eager to overcome the inevitable challenges, to better manage expectations and to carve out the best methods in achieving your priorities.

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

Sony Electronics | 16535 Via Esprillo

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

**MEMBER BENEFIT**

**Register by July 11 to receive 20% off**



**August 14 | 5:30 - 8:00**

## Summer Wine Social

Athena's Life Sciences Special Interest Group (LSIG) invites you to join us for a relaxing evening in the company of some of San Diego's best and brightest women and men in STEM.

Come early to participate in a quick and fun icebreaker and stick around to network with new acquaintances and old friends. As always, Athena's Board of Directors will be on hand to serve up wine and conversation.

You don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to connect and socialize!

Takeda California | 9625 Towne Centre Dr.

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

**MEMBER BENEFIT**

**Register by July 31 to receive 20% off**

**SIGN ME UP!**

