

Local

Two Delco businesswomen honored

By **STEPHANIE K. WHALEN**

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Two women with Delaware County connections earned accolades from Gov. Ed Rendell last week, after being named winners of the 12th annual Best 50 Women in Business in Pennsylvania.

Pamela Godwin of Havertown and Gerianne Tringali DiPiano, a Maryland native, both achieved success as presidents of their companies while making invaluable contributions to their communities and the state, Rendell said in a press release April 9.

"This year's honorees are leaders who are dedicated to creating a better Pennsylvania," he said.

"From large to small business — covering a wide array of industries — these women and countless others across the commonwealth are making valuable contributions to the state's future. Their substantive efforts are creating new opportunities for our residents, growing the state's economy and improving the quality of life in our communities."

Godwin, who is president of Change Partners Inc., a company that helps other organizations learn how to succeed and grow, said she felt privileged to be in



PAMELA GODWIN

One of state's best in business

the presence of such company.

"When I look at the list, I feel very honored and privileged to be included with those women this year, and those women who were recognized in past years," she said.

"I really feel that these kinds of honors are more about women's leadership in general, and the kinds of things that are possible for women now. Being on this list is more about what women are doing these days than

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Change Partners founder

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it is about me individually."

A graduate of Penn State University, Godwin first taught high school French after graduating college and moving to Delaware County from the Midwest. And while she "has complete respect" for the teaching profession (her husband, W. Gill, is a lifelong educator), Godwin said something kept pulling her in another direction.

She worked as an executive at several insurance companies before spearheading her own company, Change Partners Inc., in

2001.

Now, she helps coach executives and leaders to become even better leaders, through strategic leadership assessment, senior team alignments, company cultural assessments and succession planning.

Basically, Godwin said, "We help people make changes they want to make and need to make to lead change in their organizations more effectively."

Her fellow honoree, Gerianne Tringali DiPiano, developed a very different kind of organization in 1996 that earned her an award as one of Pennsylvania's 50 Best Women in Business.

According to the Web site of her company, FemmePharma Global Healthcare, Tringali DiPiano created her business in the Wayne section of Radnor Township to develop drugs for diseases and disorders that disproportionately affect women.

Since the company's inception more than a decade ago, FemmePharma has developed a nonsurgical alternative to treat endometriosis and is now working on a topical treatment for thousands of women who suffer from chronic breast pain, known as mastalgia. The company is also studying new treatment options

for urinary incontinence in women.

Tringali DiPiano said in a company press release that more than two decades of experience as a pharmaceutical executive encouraged her to pioneer her own path in the health care industry.

"I believed the time had come to be more proactive in research and development efforts. A female-focused pharmaceutical company offers unprecedented opportunities to concentrate on the physiological differences between the sexes and to improve the quality of life for women," she said.

"My goal is to bring more products to market and eventually go public. I am always challenged to move our developments through clinical trials and get them to market ... finding ways to improve speed, but not to compromise the work we do."

Tringali DiPiano and Godwin will be honored as two of the 50 Best Women in Business with their fellow honorees May 21 at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg.

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