



ARIZONA WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, INC.

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## AWEE RECIPIENTS CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM GIVING NATURE OF ATHENA HONOREES THROUGH CELEBRATED AWARDS PROGRAM

*Women honored for their business success and giving spirit continue to impact lives of those facing life challenges*

**PHOENIX, Ariz. (October 23, 2009)** – Ceanna is a single mother of three who not only pursued and accomplished getting through a dental assistance program, but is now inspired to return to class to acquire a business administration degree, all because of the generous donations she received from past ATHENA honorees at the 2008 event. At this week's 2009 ATHENA Award ceremony, **Angelina Provencio** was on stage to receive the same generosity to pursue her own path – thanks to what is now a 13-plus year relationship between the Greater Phoenix Chamber's ATHENA Award program and Arizona Women's Education & Employment, also known as AWEE.

The 2008 ATHENA honoree, Dr. Candace Lew, recognized Angelina as an inspiring woman for battling the horrors of drug addiction since the age of 12. She served time in prison and lost custody of her kids, but has now been living sober for four years and rebuilt her life and her family. Angelina works as a recovery coach for Terros Families. Dr. Lew noted that she is an inspiring example of true courage, strength and perseverance and embodies the ATHENA spirit in her dedication to giving back by helping others on their own road to recovery.



Pictured above (from left) are Dr. Candace Lew, Angelina Provencio and Courtney Klein at the 2009 ATHENA Awards.

As Angelina humbly accepted the honor in front of more than 700 guests, she thanked her AWEE Case Manager for supporting her every step of the way as she re-entered society and worked to get back on her feet, and in her words "conquer the demons." A Glendale resident, Angelina will be using the more than two-thousand dollars in scholarship money to get her Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor certification.

The ATHENA Award recognizes women for their business success, leadership, community service and support of other women. In that spirit, the scholarship was created years ago to represent the spirit of the ATHENA. In the early years, the Chamber made the contribution on behalf of the award program. In the late 90s, past ATHENA honorees wanted to increase the level of the donation and started making their own personal contributions to increase the scholarship amount. Now it's become a tradition. "We are thrilled every year to have the opportunity to reach out into our participant pool and tap someone deserving of these dollars to continue their path toward career success," says Marie Sullivan, president and CEO of AWEE and an ATHENA recipient herself from 2003. "We have so many people who can use the help, especially this year with a tripling of those we typically see in need of help in their career pursuits. We're thrilled for Angelina."

Angelina's special honor will also be celebrated along with other participant successes in making it through tough odds at **AWEE's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Faces of Success Luncheon** set for **November 10** at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa.

### **About AWEE**

Arizona Women's Education & Employment has been successfully investing in women, families and this community through life and career success planning, training and support for more than 28 years. To date, AWEE has served and supported nearly 90,000 women, men and young adults in their quest to attain quality jobs that create positive changes and successful beginnings for themselves and their families. For more information, contact AWEE at (602) 223-4333 or visit [AWEE.org](http://AWEE.org).

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