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Novant Health's Tanya S. Blackmon to Receive 2021 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year Award

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Mar. 3, 2022) – Queens University of Charlotte is pleased to present the 2021 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year award to Tanya S. Blackmon, executive vice president and chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer for Novant Health. Blackmon was cited for her exceptional leadership and dedication to strengthening Novant Health's position as a respected leader in the Charlotte region and throughout the country.

This year's award ceremony returns to the Queens University campus in Young Dining Hall on Thursday, March 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Charlotte Mayor and Queens alum Vi Lyles will be the keynote speaker. Four female students from Queens University will receive the annual Charlotte BusinessWoman scholarship at the event. Several other civic, business and university leaders will be in attendance.

Blackmon leads a system-wide culture change strategy to embed diversity, inclusion and equity across the Novant Health system of 35,000 team members. Under her leadership, Novant Health has earned national recognition including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Inaugural Health Equity Award, Human Right Campaign Healthcare Equity Index Leaders in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality, NACD NXT Board of Trustees as No.1 Diversity Innovator in America for Nonprofits, American Heroes for NC Liberty Award, and Forbes' list of Best Employers for Women and Best Employers for Diversity.

"Tanya is a visionary leader and role model who strategically reimagines what's possible as she creates environments that ensure all people have fair and equitable access to opportunities," said Queens University President Dan Lugo. "Her national reputation for executing sound practices of justice, impartiality and fairness within her organization, while also serving her community, speaks for itself."

During her 25-year tenure, Blackmon broadened her perspective to include an executive lens as the president of two medical centers within the Novant Health footprint. Her passion is to cultivate an inclusive and welcoming environment for all stakeholders – patients and families, team members, suppliers and the community at large. Blackmon is a committed problem solver

who believes that innovation is a critical tool for meeting the challenges of today's rapidly changing healthcare environment. She brings to her role a deep understanding and expertise in the business of healthcare to ensure that the work of embedding diversity, inclusion and equity aligns with the strategic business goals of the organization.

A leader in the Charlotte community, Blackmon currently serves as a trustee of both the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation Board, Queens University Board and is a member of the A Way Home Foundation board. She is a former delegate for the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board and has previously served as a member of the North Carolina Hospital Association Policy Development Committee. She has also been a board member of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Medic Board of Commissioners and a past board chair for the Crisis Assistance Ministry.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled by this recognition," said Blackmon. "I admire the women who have preceded me in being honored and I will strive to live up to the ideals of this award by continuing to work to improve our community for all who live here."

Established in 1986, the Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year award honors the achievements of exceptional businesswomen based on their contributions to the business, civic and cultural communities in the Charlotte region. Previous winners include Mecklenburg County Manager Dena Diorio; Peggy Brookhouse, former president of Luquire George Andrews (LGA); Carol Lovin, executive vice president and system chief of staff for Atrium Health; Andrea B. Smith, former chief administrative officer at Bank of America; Susan Devore, former president and chief executive officer of Premier, Inc.; and Lynn Good, president and chief executive officer of Duke Energy.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the history of the Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year award.

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About Queens

Queens University is a private, coeducational university located in Charlotte, N.C. The university serves nearly 2,500 students with 43 major and 63 minor undergraduate degree options and 12 graduate degrees. Students represent 44 states and 70 foreign countries. As part of the university's vision to promote educational experiences that nurture intellectual curiosity and promote global understanding, nearly two-thirds of traditional undergraduates participate in study abroad experiences and 100 percent take part in internships. The U.S. News & World Report ranked Queens 15th among regional universities in the south in its 2022 edition of Best Colleges.