Cincinnati, OH — The YWCA of Greater Cincinnati has announced its 2017 class of YWCA Rising Star Award recipients. The YWCA Academy of Career Women of Achievement created the Rising Star Award and Network in 2002 as a way to mentor and support younger women (age 25 - 40) in pursuit of excellence in their careers. Nomination criteria include having the qualities of an outstanding performer, proven leadership abilities, and the potential to attain marked achievement in her chosen career. Rising Star Award recipients become part of a network with special access to mentoring, networking, and educational opportunities. This year, 56 women join the more than 700 YWCA Rising Stars in Greater Cincinnati.

Following are the young professional women awarded as 2017 Rising Stars:

- Ahmyah S. Smith, Director of Recruitment/Senior Program Manager, Public Allies Cincinnati
- Alina C. Nosal, Associate to VP of Student Affairs and PIO, University of Cincinnati
- Amanda Troutman, Business Analyst, Assurex Health
- Amy Dagilis, Designer, Madison Design
- Anshu Anand, Associate Attorney, Musillo Unkenholt, LLC
- Ashlee Foltz, Chief Compliance Officer, Cintas Corporation
- Brandie Ryan, Store Manager, The Kroger Company
- Casey Ruschman, Foundation Manager, Duke Energy
- Chris Kim Kahn, Senior Associate, Frost Brown Todd
- Deirdre Willingham, Manager - Technical Services, The Western & Southern Financial Group
- DeVonna Gatlin, PhD Candidate in Chemistry, University of Cincinnati
- Dominique Francisco, Community Relations Director, Tamaya for Cincinnati
- Dr. Littisha Bates, Associate Professor Sociology, University of Cincinnati
- Dr. Nicole Avant, Assistant Professor Pharmacy, University of Cincinnati
- Ebony Feaster, District Operations Manager, U.S. Bank
- Emily Chesnut, Sr. Analyst - Electronic Medical Records, Cincinnati Children's
- Esther Claros-Berlioz, Graduate Student - Discovery Center, Miami University OH
About the YWCA:

YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. YWCA Greater Cincinnati has been serving the community for 148 years. YWCA Greater Cincinnati serves more than 34,000 men, women and their families each
year through programs focused in 3 key pillars: empowerment & economic advancement, health & safety, and racial justice & inclusion. YWCA Greater Cincinnati is a United Way partner agency. For information call the YWCA Greater Cincinnati at (513) 241-7090 or visit www.ywcacincinnati.org.