

Empowering Women: AdventHealth for Women Partners with ATHENA Orlando Women's Leadership, Inc. to Foster Leadership and Growth



Pictured left to right: Traci Smith, Karen Keene, Dr. Karen Corbin, Doreen Forsythe, Margaret Redmond, Jaeann Ashton

Community partnerships are at the root of ATHENA Orlando Women's Leadership, Inc., fostering growth and relationships since it began in 2014. As we enter our 11th year of the ATHENA NextGen program, we are excited to have AdventHealth for Women as a presenting sponsor. This unique partnership allows us to continue **advocating fiercely** for women leaders in our community and encouraging them to **learn constantly** by focusing on their own personal development.

"Partnering with AdventHealth for Women is a big step for ATHENA Orlando Women's Leadership, Inc. Their unwavering commitment to empower women in our community aligns perfectly with our mission to foster growth and provide a nurturing environment for emerging female leaders throughout Central Florida," said ATHENA Board President Traci Smith. "This partnership supports our program initiatives while also creating more opportunities to inspire and drive women toward their fullest potential."

AdventHealth for Women's sponsorship focuses specifically on our ATHENA NextGen alumnae who stay involved beyond graduation from the leadership program. These exclusive workshops create opportunities for engagement with the program's more than 500 alumnae, focusing on topics that align

with AdventHealth for Women's mission and ATHENA's leadership principles. Our most recent workshop featured top female experts from different areas within AdventHealth and sparked engaging conversations about women's health, carrying the mental load and how we can continue help each other thrive. We look forward to the next workshop in August.

In the spirit of collaboration, AdventHealth for Women is also providing a full scholarship for an emerging leader to participate in this year's ATHENA NextGen Cohort. "We have dreamed of establishing a scholarship initiative to benefit young women leaders who may not be able to afford the \$850 registration fee," shared Karen Keene, Founder and Chief Strategic Adviser of ATHENA NextGen. "AdventHealth for Women has stepped up in a big way to bring this dream to fruition and sponsor the first scholarship recipient, which will inspire other companies to follow in their footsteps."

"Caring for women means walking beside them through every era of life," said Jaeann Ashton, executive director of Community Engagement at AdventHealth. "True support extends beyond hospital walls, because we recognize that health and personal fulfillment – whether in family, career or selfcare – are deeply intertwined. It's our hope that this new partnership with ATHENA Orlando Women's Leadership will help women thrive in all aspects of life, because that's when our Central Florida community flourishes."

This year's scholarship recipient is Katherine Griffith-Williams. From experiencing homelessness with her three children to becoming a thriving entrepreneur and college graduate, Katherine is a powerful example of resilience, purpose, and reinvention. She earned her associate's degree in liberal arts and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in business, with a focus on scaling her impact and building generational change.

As the founder of her own brand, Katherine works as a social media manager, helping purpose-driven brands and nonprofits grow their online presence with clarity and strategy. She also serves as a life coach, guiding women through powerful mindset shifts that help them take charge of their lives mentally, emotionally, and financially. Katherine's mission is to show women, especially those in her age group, that it's possible to be bold, authentic, and step outside of societal norms while building a life of success and fulfillment. She is proof your past does not define your vision; your action and growth are what matter most.

When asked about what she looks forward to most about being part of the ATHENA NextGen 2025 cohort Katherine shared, "I look forward to growing and developing as a leader, building meaningful connections, and gaining the tools to amplify my impact in the community and beyond."

The 2025 ATHENA NextGen Cohort will officially begin on May 20, with sessions every month through December. Learn more about the program by visiting at athenaleadership.org.