

## Celebrating Leadership: Sydney Moeller Receives the 2025 ATHENA Orlando Emerging Leader Award



Creative. Compassionate. Visionary. These words describe our 2025 ATHENA Orlando Emerging Leader Award recipient, Sydney Moeller. She was honored at this year's Orlando Business Journal Women Who Mean Business awards event earlier this month, where her story of leadership, innovation, and heart took center stage.

"We are so proud to recognize Sydney as this year's Emerging Leader," said Karen Keene, Founder and Chief Strategic Advisor of ATHENA Orlando Women's Leadership, Inc. "Her journey reflects the very essence of ATHENA's leadership principles—especially her commitment to giving back, building relationships, and celebrating others."

The ATHENA Orlando Emerging Leader Award honors an ATHENA NextGen alumna who exemplifies a leadership style rooted in the ATHENA Leadership Model®. Recipients are known for lifting others up, leading with authenticity, and creating meaningful impact in their communities.

Sydney's story is one of bold creativity and intentional leadership. A Louisville native who made Orlando her home during college, she began her career as an Interior Designer with Walt Disney Imagineering. That early spark for creating engaging, people-centered spaces led to an 11-year journey with Baker Barrios Architects, where she rose to Principal and Director of Workplace Strategies.

However, Sydney's leadership goes far beyond design. She led the firm's community team, championed philanthropic initiatives, mentored emerging talent, and became a thought leader in workplace design and sustainability. Her time in the ATHENA NextGen program helped sharpen her voice and vision—tools she now uses to empower others.

Today, Sydney is channeling her entrepreneurial spirit as a Sustainability Consultant and Founder of Paperly Goods, an Orlando-based gift-wrapping service that blends creativity with eco-conscious celebration. Whether she's mentoring women, supporting small businesses, or advocating for community resources, Sydney leads with purpose and passion.



She credits the ATHENA Leadership Principles as her compass and believes deeply in the power of women supporting women. “I’m humbled and honored to receive this award,” Sydney shared. “I’m so grateful for the mentors and network who have shaped my journey—and I’m excited to pay it forward to the next generation of powerhouse women leaders.”

When she’s not leading a strategic initiative or launching a new idea, you’ll find Sydney enjoying time with her family, chasing after her two young daughters, or exploring Orlando’s vibrant foodie scene.

Founded in 2012, ATHENA Orlando Women’s Leadership, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that delivers dynamic programming rooted in the ATHENA Leadership Model® and its Eight Leadership Principles: Live Authentically, Learn Constantly, Advocate Fiercely, Act Courageously, Foster Collaboration, Build Relationships, Give Back, and Celebrate.

Its flagship program, the ATHENA NextGen Thought Leadership Series, is the only one of its kind in Central Florida. With more than 510 graduates, it’s helping women rise to the top of Orlando’s business and civic leadership. Through eight monthly masterclasses, participants connect across industries, build confidence, and redefine what leadership looks like.

To learn more about ATHENA Orlando Women’s Leadership, Inc., visit [athenaleadershiporlando.org](https://athenaleadershiporlando.org).