



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Caroline Monahan  
Phone: 616-392-2389  
caroline@westcoastchamber.org

## **2017 MINORITY BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017: The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce recognized Francé Allen of Ventura Manufacturing, and Dawn Garcia Ward of Warner Norcross and Judd and Juanita Bocanegra of the Ottawa County Prosecutors Office, at a luncheon at the Midtown Center on April 19. Approximately 200 individuals were in attendance.

**The Minority Business of the Year:** Francé Allen of Ventura Manufacturing grew up in Mexico and began her adventure in America as a teenager. She worked in Texas and migrant fields in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, which led her to a job at Prince Manufacturing. Her career path took her to Innotec, where she began small cell assembly, and where in 1997 she launched her company, Ventura Manufacturing, now operating in the U.S., Mexico, China, and Hungary. Ventura continues to desire to be a company based on Biblical principles and values that include trust, humility, service, fun, forgiveness, learning, change, hard work, and teamwork.

This award is chosen using the following criteria:

- Must be a member of the West Coast Chamber
- Must be a minority owned business
- Must have been in business for at least 3 years
- Demonstrates strong financial stability

**The Minority Business Champion** award was presented to Dawn Garcia Ward of Warner Norcross and Judd, and Juanita Bocanegra of the Ottawa County Prosecutors Office. Both accomplished attorneys, Dawn and Juanita recognized a need in the community to support and mentor other Latinas, and are the founders of the Professional Lakeshore Latinas, an official affinity group of the West Coast Chamber of Commerce. This group, which has grown to almost 70 women over the course of the last year, meets regularly, uniting business professionals in the local Latina community, who offer mentoring, networking and support to each other.

This award is chosen using the following criteria:

- Must work for a West Coast Chamber member firm
- Must promote or positively impact the minority business community
- Must value diversity and promote appreciation of differences

The West Coast Chamber would like to congratulate these recipients for their dedication and commitment to our business community.



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Photo caption: (L-R) 2017 Minority Business Award recipients Dawn Garcia Ward, Francé Allen, and Juanita Bocanegra