

PRESS & GUIDE

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Friday,

AAUW creates Marge Powell prep leadership award



Applauded for their “leadership, service and integrity,” three soon-to-be high school graduates became the first honorees of Dearborn AAUW’s first-ever Marge Powell Leadership Award. Receiving framed citations from AAUW President Carolyn Blackmore and Marge Powell herself (center) Maya Meheidli (left), Fordson; Allison Foret, Dearborn High; and Jumana Abusalah, Edsel Ford.

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DEARBORN — Citing “exceptional leadership,” three Dearborn high school students were granted special recognition this month as first recipients of Dearborn AAUW’s new “Marge Powell Leadership Award.”

Honored were seniors Allison Foret, Dearborn High School; Jumana Abusalah, Edsel Ford High School, and Maya Meheidli, Fordson High School.

The awards were presented April 13 by Dearborn AAUW President Carolyn Blackmore and Marge Powell during special ceremonies at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center.

“We are gathered here to recognize and honor three remarkable young women who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential and exemplary integrity,” said Blackmore as she congratulated the honorees.

Blackmore explained the unique new high school award:

“Our branch is always looking for ways to support youth, especially women, in our local area. We want to encourage them to break through barriers and become leaders in the community.”

“The mission of the American Association of University Women is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, and until now, our efforts have been at the university, community and national levels,” Blackmore said.

“Today, for the first time, we are delighted to recognize leaders from our public high schools to further our mission.”

In seeking candidates for the prestigious award, AAUW wanted to reward a student at each high school who has been involved in leadership and personal efforts to “make good things happen” at their school,” said Betty

Martin., branch secretary.

Martin said AAUW primarily relied on the judgment of school teaching and counseling staff in choosing each year’s honoree. “We especially asked that she be an example to others and involved in service and worthwhile endeavors in her school and/or the community.”

“We named this special award in honor of Marge Powell, a woman well-known in the Dearborn community for a lifetime of public service and leadership. We are gratified to encourage young women to emulate the kind of character and integrity Marge has demonstrated in, and for, this community.”

Powell’s roster of past public service includes President of the Dearborn PTA Council, member of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Citizen Advisory Council, the Governor’s Energy Awareness Advisory Committee, and 8 years as Dearborn City Council President.

In the 1980s she narrowly lost a race for mayor of Dearborn to Michael Guido. Later that decade, Powell was named Citizen of the Year by the Metro Detroit Boys & Girls Club, and Dearborn's Inter-Service Club Council's Person of the Year.

In her "spare time," Powell also served as co-chair of Dearborn's AAUW Annual Used Book Sale and publicity chair, said Martin.

The award will be given each year in the form of a \$250 honorarium, a framed commemorative certificate, and a plaque "to be placed on display in perpetuity" in each high school.

In addition, Martin said each young woman will be an honored guest at the Annual Dearborn AAUW Installation Dinner May 24.