



## Zeerip selected as the 2014 Lakeshore Athena

Helen Zerrip, president of Teddy's Transport of Holland, was honored at the tenth annual Lakeshore Athena Award Luncheon as the 2014 Athena recipient.

Dwana Thompson, chairperson for the Lakeshore Athena Award program, said nine nominee finalists were recognized at the luncheon, which was attended by more than 360 community and business leaders.

"We are honored to have so many women from our region that make significant contributions in the communities where they live and work," she said.

The Lakeshore Athena Award Program is a collaboration of the Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. The recipients are chosen by a selection committee composed of representatives from the participating Chambers and community business leaders.

The Athena award was created to raise up one outstanding role model each year who exhibits exceptional leadership skills, who has achieved excellence in their own business or profession, has served the community in a meaningful way, has assisted other women in reaching their leadership potential and who have made regional contributions.

Helen is President of Teddy's Transport, a trucking company based in Holland that specializes in local pickup and delivery, nationwide expediting and dedicated fleets with service between West Michigan and the greater Chicago area. Since 1997 sales have dramatically increased under Helen's leadership. Recognized in 2011 and 2013 as one of the Top Women-Owned Businesses in the region, 2012 recognized by Inc. 500 Magazine as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in America, and in May 2013 selected by the United States Small Business Administration as Family Owned Business of the Year.

Helen serves on Pathways MI Board of Directors and Davenport University Board of Advisors to the Business College, and is a former member of the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.