

## **EMBARGO UNTIL NOON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Contact:  
Laura Weis  
President and CEO  
Champaign County Chamber of Commerce  
217.359.1791

### **Kathleen Holden Named 2009 ATHENA Award Recipient**

The Champaign County Chamber of Commerce has named Kathleen Holden as the 2009 ATHENA Award recipient. She will receive the award at a luncheon held at the Champaign Country Club at noon on February 19.

Kathleen Holden is the 21<sup>st</sup> local recipient of the award, which honors individuals who assist women in reaching their full leadership potential; demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their businesses or professions; and provide valuable service by devoting time and energy to improving the quality of life for others in the community.

Kathleen is the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Illinois, a program which offers educational opportunities for older adults. She graduated from the U of I with a BSW and a Master of Social Work degree, and began her administrative career there in 1981. She served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration from 1990 to 1999, when she was appointed Associate Provost and Director of Academic Human Resources, and in 2004 she was named Associate Chancellor. Kathleen retired in 2006, but later returned to the University to direct the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

“Her presence is both comforting and invigorating. Her knowledge is on display, not for show, but for the value it can impart. She is smart, and able, and considerate,” says Chancellor Richard Herman.

Throughout her tenure at the University, Kathleen has actively mentored women in senior level positions on campus or who have left to lead other organizations.

“Not only did Kathleen assist and mentor hundreds of women on campus during her long career, her professionalism, integrity and demeanor as she moved through the administrative ranks lifted the status of all women working at the University of Illinois,” says Lyn Jones, Kathleen’s nominator and a past recipient of the ATHENA Award.

Over the years, Kathleen has served in a number of community leadership roles, including President of Urbana Rotary, member of the board of the United Way of Champaign County, chair of the METCAD 911 policy board, member of the Allerton Park and Retreat Center policy advisory board and board member of the Central Association of College and University Business Officers.

Kathleen joins a distinguished list of past ATHENA recipients including Jane Hays (2008); Donna Greene (2007), Jayne DeLuce (2006); Sue Grey (2005); Beth Katsinas (2004); Diane Friedman (2003); Traci Nally (2002); Lyn Jones (2001); Linda Hamilton (2000); Anita Broeren (1999); Theresa Grentz (1998); Zelema Harris (1997); Shirley Anderson (1996); Mary McGrath (1995); Linda Mills (1994); Jan Kiley (1993); Nanette Fisher (1992); Gloria Dauten (1991); Elizabeth Curzon (1990); and Ruth B. Jones (1989).

The ATHENA® Award program is sponsored by the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Worden-Martin, Inc., corporate underwriter for the ATHENA® Award program. The award recipient's jeweled lapel pin is provided by National City Bank, now a part of PNC.

###