



Women Making a Difference Award Given to Coffee By Design's Co-founder Mary Allen Lindemann for Public Service



Above: Presenting the Merle Nelson Women Making a Difference Award is Muriel Mosher, President, Maine MEP, Mary Allen Lindemann, and Eloise Vitelli, Women, Work and Community, Director of Program and Policy Development.

AUGUSTA, Maine: Mary Allen Lindemann of Coffee By Design, a Portland based company, has been named the 2015 recipient of the *Merle Nelson Women Making a Difference Award* by the [Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community](#) (WWC). The award was presented to Lindemann by WWC Advisory Council member Muriel Mosher at the organization's biennial legislative reception in Augusta.

For four years running, Lindemann and her team at Coffee By Design have crafted a special blend, My Mom's Coffee, in honor of mothers everywhere, partnering with WWC to promote sales during the month of May. As part of the company's community coffee program, a portion of the proceeds from sales of the special blend were donated to WWC.

"It has been great fun to work with Mary Allen on this project and recognize her generosity and community mindedness. She is a great role model for all of us, especially our entrepreneurs," said Gilda Nardone, executive director of WWC.

Giving back to the community is at the heart of the 20-year-old company's mission. In addition to donations to artists, arts groups and other non-profits, Mary Allen Lindemann is a passionate spokesperson for Maine's entrepreneurial spirit and willingly shares her experiences as a business owner.

The *Merle Nelson Making a Difference Award* is made biennially by Women, Work and Community and recognizes an individual who has had a positive impact on the lives of Maine women and their families.

The award reflects the core mission of WWC, and one that the organization strives to fulfill every day through its programs and classes.

In presenting the award to Lindmann, WWC Advisory Council member Muriel Mosher saluted Coffee By Design's extensive community service, as well as its entrepreneurial vision and commitment to employees.

"The growth of Coffee By Design over the years has been fueled by a commitment to producing a quality product and by a vision of the kind of community-centered business they aspired to create. Those two concepts – commitment to quality and commitment to community – run like themes through their many accomplishments," Mosher stated at the award presentation.

Mosher, the president of the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership ([Maine MEP](#)), noted that her organization had first-hand knowledge of the coffee company's entrepreneurial vision, as Maine MEP had advised Coffee By Design on the layout and workflow of its new roastery and headquarters in Portland.

The Women, Work and Community award ceremony is a biennial event designed to provide business and community leaders, including elected officials, with an opportunity to learn about the challenges that individuals face in creating economic well-being for themselves and their families, as well as the opportunity and training that WWC provides throughout the state.

About Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community

Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community has been helping individuals in transition find jobs, start businesses, enroll in higher education, and build assets for over 35 years. The organization has grown from one site to 17 sites serving all 16 Maine counties. Information about the available programs and services can be found online at <http://womenworkandcommunity.org/>.

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