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INAUGURAL YAVAPAI ATHENA LEADERSHIP TO BE AWARDED
Presentation will be made at Arizona Women's Festival on March 15 in Sedona

The Arizona Women's Festival is pleased to announce the inaugural ATHENA Award in Sedona, Arizona. The Yavapai Athena Award will accept nominations from throughout the Verde Valley and Prescott/Prescott Valley area in Northern Arizona. The award will be presented on Saturday, March 15, 2008, during the Arizona Women's Festival to an exceptional individual who has achieved excellence in her/his business or profession, has served the community in a meaningful way and has assisted women in their attainment of professional goals and leadership skills.

The ATHENA Award was first presented in 1982 in Lansing, Michigan and has grown to include presentations to more than 5,000 individuals in hundreds of cities in the United States as well as in Canada, China, Russia and the United Kingdom. The award takes the form of a hand-cast bronze sculpture symbolizing the strength, courage and wisdom of the recipient. Martha Mertz, founder of the Athena Award, currently resides in Sedona, after moving here from Michigan.

The Yavapai Athena Award will cover values underlying ATHENA International's philosophy of incorporating the talent and expertise of women into the leadership of our businesses, our communities and our government. The spirit of the ATHENA Award® Program is captured in a quotation from Plato, "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there." By honoring exceptional leaders, others will be encouraged to excel.

The Yavapai Athena recipient will be invited to join the thousands of ATHENA Award Recipients worldwide along with other business owners and professionals at the annual International ATHENA Leadership Summit which is scheduled for March of 2009 in Chicago, Illinois.

The ATHENA Award® Program is nationally underwritten by General Motors and National City Bank.

Nominations will be accepted until February 22 and forms may be obtained by going to www.womensfestivals.org/athena or by contacting Cheryl Yates at cheryl@communicationbridges.com or by calling (928) 204-9834. ###