

News Release

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Maxson Nominated for Athena Young Professional Award

Grand Rapids, Mich. August 16, 2011 –Varnum Consulting's Jennifer (Dowling) Maxson has been named a 2011 Athena Young Professional Award nominee.

Maxson is the practice group leader, consultant and coach at Varnum Consulting, where she has served as a business consultant for a variety of clients since 1996.

The Athena Young Professionals Award is supported by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and recognizes women who are leaders in the community and workplace. In order to be nominated, the candidates must meet the following criteria:

- o Be an emerging leader who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in her business or profession;
- o Serve as a role model for young women personally and professionally;
- o Is 40 years old or younger, and has a minimum of five (5) years professional experience;
- o Provides valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in the community.

Maxson was selected as one of 10 nominees to be considered for the award. The recipient will be chosen by a committee of prominent community leaders and announced at the Athena Award Luncheon on September 14 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

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Maxson is an active community member and has served on a variety of boards and councils. She is currently the recruiting chair for Leadership West Michigan, a member of the Wolverine World Wide YMCA board, a J-board member of the Van Andel Institute and a mentor in the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Leadership Academy, Grand Valley State University. In addition, Maxson is an active member of Inforum, the Society of Human Resources Management, and the American Society of Training and Development.

Jennifer is a graduate of John Glenn High School and Grand Valley State University. She is married to Gene Maxson and has 3 children. They live in Belmont, MI.

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Varnum is a leading Michigan law firm providing a broad range of legal services to meet the complex needs of its clients. With more than 150 attorneys in five offices, Varnum serves as counsel to growing businesses and institutions throughout Michigan and the Midwest. Varnum's web site address is www.varnumlaw.com.

Varnum Consulting was established to provide a trusted source of advice for the firm, its clients, and the regional business community. Varnum Consulting provides meaningful solutions to help clients meet their goals and achieve profitable results. Varnum Consulting's web site address is www.varnumconsulting.com.