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## First 'Gamechanger' award announced

By ANDREW HARP THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Feb 8, 2022



Legacy Foundation executive board members Juandalynn Heslop, left, Y. Kae Cooper and Gwendolyn Brashear, right, give the Tanya Seabrooks Gamechanger Award to Donielle Heron-Lovell, second from right.

Submitted

Known as a “gamechanger,” the late Tanya Seabrooks now has an award in her honor for who continue her legacy.

The Legacy Foundation awarded the first Tanya Seabrooks Gamechanger Award to Donielle Heron-Lovell.

Juandalynn Heslop, an executive board member of the foundation, said the foundation was originally founded by Seabrooks, who was serving as a Radcliff City Councilwoman at the time of death in December 2020.

Heron-Lovell, associate professor of sociology at Western Kentucky University, said she worked with Seabrooks for years in Hardin County on various committees and projects, and then became friends.

“I am very fortunate to have worked with Tanya and to have known her and just loved her to pieces,” she said.

Heron-Lovell said Seabrooks was a champion for women in the community who wanted to do good work, and Seabrooks helped her become acquainted with the community and connect with others.

For the award, Heslop said community members were invited to nominate someone who reflects Seabrooks values and were evaluated by a set criteria.

Nominees are people who have fundamentally impacted the community, Heslop. Other nominees include Maria Bell, Laura Boozer, Hope Burke, Terry Owens, Theresa Waddell and George Willis.

“As you can see from the list of nominees ... everybody’s doing their part,” she said.

Heslop said Heron-Lovell’s work as the co-chairwoman of the Removing Obstacles Committee for the Lincoln Trail Workforce Participation Crisis Task Force was one of the reasons she was selected.

According to a news release, Heron-Lovell helped lead to the creation of a new retention program with Hardin Memorial Hospital, now Baptist Health Hardin, which will help current employees get a felony conviction expunged.

“Her doing that amongst all of her other accolades really set her apart from the rest of the nominees,” Heslop said.

Heron-Lovell said Seabrooks was good at bringing people together and having them collaborate and help others who are disenfranchised.

Heron-Lovell said she had no idea she was nominated until Heslop called in January to say she was the award recipient. She said the award is bittersweet because it represents the fact that Seabrooks is gone, but her work still continues.

“I was completely stunned and very overwhelmed and appreciative,” she said.

The foundation is a nonprofit that coordinates programs and initiatives including the Minding My Own Small Business Entrepreneurship Academy, the Seabrooks Youth Entrepreneurship Academy and the Batistoni-Lee Youth Center.

Those who want to get involved can contact the foundation at [thelegacyfoundation2020@gmail.com](mailto:thelegacyfoundation2020@gmail.com) or donations can be made at [paypal.me/TLF2020](https://www.paypal.me/TLF2020).

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