

## WHIRL HONORS WOMEN IN BUSINESS CLASS OF 2012



A mentor can come in many forms. Whether your mentor has helped shape you your entire life, or you've been mentored by a collection of people, the ability to pass on inspiration might just be the most important component of a business that continues to have long-term success. A recent study by the Chatham University Center for Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) found that womenowned small businesses are increasing at a faster rate than their male counterparts and that women are becoming a key driver of small business growth. "Guiding and supporting women business owners through additional education and skill-building around hiring is a key part of growing their business and improving the economy for all," says Rebecca Harris, Director for the CWE. Mentoring has not only become an important aspect of personal growth, but economic growth as well, and in Pittsburgh, women in business have stepped up. They're mentorees who have grown into mentors themselves, and they're making Pittsburgh a even better business community by implementing what they've learned. Throughout this story, you'll see quotes from a number of our honorees about mentoring and their role as businesswomen in Western Pennsylvania. Raise your glass to the women who have, and will continue to, help our region thrive economically and interpersonally. @



## "THERE'S NO GREATER COMPLIMENT

than to take an employee who works underneath you, and prepare them for the position you're in today." — Michelle Kirsop, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant