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**CIRA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TRAILBLAZER AWARDS
THROUGH ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

INDIANAPOLIS – On Thursday, June 9, 2016, the Central Indiana Realtist Association (CIRA) will honor its 2016 Trailblazers and “Best of the Best” Award Winners at its Annual Trailblazers Luncheon. The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana is a proud sponsor of this event.

“For so many, the American Dream includes home ownership,” stated Diana Rice-Wilkerson, President of CIRA. “Without the work of these award winners, that dream would have been impossible or difficult to attain.”

This year, the CIRA Trailblazer’s Luncheon will award five “Best of the Best” awards to individuals for their contributions toward transforming neighborhoods and keeping homeownership a reality for those who have been disenfranchised. The CIRA 2016 “Best of the Best” awardees include:

- Clarence & Bertha Van Slyke, Van Slyke Realtors
- Mary Stevenson, Financial Coach, Hawthorne Community Center for Working Families
- Rebecca Harmon Murphy, Assistant Director of Business Development, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership
- Curtis Gregory, Owner, Gregory Home Inspections
- Joyce Black, Real Estate Broker, United Real Estate

The CIRA will also give Trailblazer Awards to five individuals who broke down barriers and through glass ceilings in their respective industries. These pioneers also went on to make remarkable strides and significant accomplishments that have had long term benefits in our community toward inclusiveness. These extraordinary trailblazers include:

- Walter S. Blackburn, posthumously, was the President & CEO of Blackburn Architects. Mr. Blackburn’s firm was the oldest African American architectural firm in Indiana prior to his passing. At one time, his firm had designed more units than only one other firm in Indiana.

- Jonathon E. Edmonds is the former President of the Indiana Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Indianapolis where he focused on community and economic development.
- Eugene “Gene” McClain, posthumously, became a state licensed real estate broker in 1962. He was the Executive Vice President of McClain-Matthews Realtors where he required agents to agree to not discriminate against any other real estate agent or buyer to be part of his team.
- Norman “Norm” McClain has been a real estate agent for over 40 years. Committed to serving, he has continued the legacy of his father, Eugene McClain, displayed by his numerous awards and his induction into the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors Hall of Fame.
- Diana Rice-Wilkerson is a Senior Loan Officer at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. She was instrumental in her career to develop loan programs that serve low to moderate income families as well as renovation financing.

The CIRA Trailblazer’s Luncheon will take place on Thursday, June 9, 2016 beginning at 11:30 AM at The Historic Marott in Indianapolis. Luncheon sponsors include: Salin Bank, Fairway Mortgage, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Old National Bank, MB Financial, Union Savings Bank, Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors (MIBOR) and the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority.

#CIRATrailblazers2016 #CIRARocks

It is the mission of the Central Indiana Realist Association (CIRA) to improve the quality of life of the un-served and the under-served by promoting home ownership and providing real estate services that support this goal. It is also CIRA's mission to enhance the economic development and improvement of their members and the community they serve. Additional information on the Central Indiana Realist Association can be found at <http://ciranareb.org/> or via its [Facebook page](#).

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. To learn about the FHCCI or for more information, visit: www.fhcci.org