

# Women to celebrate, be celebrated at Lakeland event

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Inspiration, education and support are a trio of fundamental stepping stones often leading to a path of personal and professional success.

Individuals will have the chance to experience each at Celebrate Women!, a free event set for Saturday at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland.

More than 65 exhibitors are lined up to provide what planners say will be an interactive, hands-on event.

"What we really want is people to come, participate, have fun and learn something," said Merry Ring, director of LCC's Women's Center, which is hosting the event along with The Professional Women's Institute.

Six themed pavilions, programs, demonstrations, workshops and a café will offer attendees many things to see and do.

Suit Yourself, a nonprofit organization that furnishes career-appropriate clothing to women seeking employment, will be in the Community Pavilion.

Women in search of suitable work wardrobes will be invited to don apparel supplied by the agency, and receive feedback and advice from career professionals.

The Home and Garden Pavilion will be the site of several exhibitors, including ServiceMaster for Quality.

Operator Suzanne Friihauf said the business, based on Patterson Drive in Mentor, "restores peace of mind" along with property resulting from damage incurred through fire and/or water.

"It's a male-dominated business," Fri-



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**Jackie Swanson, owner of Just A Moment in Mentor, displays art images that have been put on canvas. Swanson will participate in Lakeland Community College's Celebrate Women! event, to be held Saturday.**

hauf said.

"It's not always easy, that's for sure. You just have to hold your ground. Education is one of the biggest things. Once they understand you're educated in it, they're OK."

In the same pavilion will be Just a Moment Images, also based in Mentor.

Jackie Swanson, who runs the business that transfers images from paintings, photos, CDs and other media to canvas, recently completed works for the Tucson Desert Museum in Arizona.

She'll be doing double duty while helping out in the Sports and Fitness section.

The 1972 Mentor High School graduate is a member of the Hot Flashes, a Mentor-based women's softball team, which is also scheduled to be featured that day.

Meanwhile, Christine (Jones) Montgomery, a 1998 Riverside High School graduate who now lives in Chester Township, where she operates Confections by Christine, will provide lessons with luscious frosting in a "Cupcakes are Fun!" workshop.

"It's therapeutic and creative," Montgomery said.

"The fun thing about decorating is that you can share it. A lot of crafts, you keep

for yourself. With this, you get both aspects."

If dabbling with spices sounds enticing, Cathi Weber of The Spice Peddler in Willoughby will present the workshop "Rubs and Marinades: Flavoring Food With Flair."

The Willowick native and Willoughby resident says the Food Network has created a new stir among foodies whose penchant for innovative recipes calls for ingredients not readily found at local grocers.

All workshops require advance registration; some have a cost for materials.

The importance of financial soundness will be addressed by Katie Krancevic, district manager of Primerica Financial Services in Euclid, a subsidiary of Citigroup Inc.

Krancevic said she hopes to interact with attendees, answering questions and explaining company services.

"Right now, a lot of people are struggling with debt because they're living off their credit cards," she said. "A common problem is people trying to balance the rising cost of living with saving for retirement."

Krancevic is a member of the Professional Women's Institute.

"It's an empowering group that's run very well," she said. "It's important to have something for women to look to that centers on and supports them."

Mary Jones, publicity chairwoman for Celebrate Women!, said event planners aspire to bring about a broad awareness of resources the community has to offer.

All proceeds will benefit the Women's Center Endowment Fund of the Lakeland Foundation.