



Rafael López, Secretary

Letter from Secretary López Department of Human Services

February 5, 2024

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Human Services, congratulations to the remarkable women who are being honored with the 2024 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Award and the Young Women Leaders Award.

As we celebrate the historic accomplishments of women across our state, I'm reminded of the words of one of my favorite poets, Maya Angelou:

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage." The women of Maryland are courageous.

Maryland has a rich history of women legislators, politicians, educators, community advocates, spiritual leaders, scientists, innovators, athletes, and philanthropists, who have paved the way for future generations through their courage and determination to move our state forward. This year's honorees are continuing this legacy. In each of their respective fields, they have taken our state to greater heights — even in the face of adversity.

We are proud to support the Maryland Commission for Women and its mission to assure that every Maryland resident, regardless of gender or identity, has access to the same opportunities to achieve their very best. We commend the Commission for creating space to celebrate women's contributions, and we extend our respect and very best wishes to this year's honorees.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Lopez', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Secretary Rafael López