

March 27, 2015

Women quietly do extraordinary things every day. To help shed light on the resilience and strength of Hoosier women and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history we are releasing an article every day in the month of March. These articles showcase how women have moved Indiana and our country forward and who inspire others to do great things in their own lives.

Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Learning more about the issues affecting women in Indiana.
- Voicing your opinion on issues important to you
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Mentoring another woman
- Join ICW's mailing list or social media outlets to be notified of upcoming events, programs and resources available to women

Go to www.in.gov/icw to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

Sources:

- **Hoosier Heroine Essay Contest**
(<http://www.in.gov/idoa/2920.htm>)
- **Hoosier Women Artists**
(http://www.in.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&event_idn=214547&information_id=212475&type=&syndicate=syndicate)
- **Indiana Historical Bureau**
(<http://www.in.gov/ihb>)
- **Indiana State Archives**
(www.in.gov/icpr/2358.htm)

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Women's History Month 2015

Telling 31 stories in 31 days this March.

Celebrating Women's History Month at the Statehouse

There are several ways to celebrate Women's History Month at the Statehouse each year. Started by former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, the [Hoosier Women Artists](#) contest is an annual competition established to celebrate Women's History Month. For eight years, it has highlighted talented female artists throughout Indiana. The contest celebrates the wide variety of graphic arts including drawing, painting and photography. Winners of the Hoosier Women Artists Contest have their artwork displayed in the Lt Governor's office for one year. To read more, visit:

The [Hoosier Heroine Essay Contest](#) was begun last year by Indiana's First Lady in conjunction with the Indiana Statehouse Tour Office. Students in grades 5 to 9 have an opportunity to complete an essay challenge. The 2015 topic is to discuss a pivotal moment in U.S. or Indiana history and the role Hoosier women played in it. Taking advantage of Indiana's current historic moment of having five concurrently serving women elected to statewide executive offices, the contest gives students an opportunity to visit the Indiana Statehouse as a special guest of First Lady Karen Pence and these extraordinary women. Winners are chosen by each of the five female office holder is charged with choosing a winning essay from a particular grade level and are announced at a reception in the Statehouse at the end of the month.

The [Indiana Historical Bureau](#) commemorates women's history year round through the many state historical markers and the [Indiana Statehouse](#) features a display celebrating Women's History Month in March. Located in the Rotunda, the display, *Women in Indiana Who Broke Barriers*, was designed by the [Indiana State Archives](#) and celebrates the life and work of four women who broke gender barriers in Indiana. Those featured include:

- Emma Christy Baker (1865-1955), the first African-American woman to be an officer with the Indianapolis Police Department;
- Antionette Dakin Leach (1859-1922), the first woman to challenge denial of admission to the Bar based on gender;
- Julia D. Nelson (1862-1936), the first woman to serve as a Representative in the Indiana General Assembly;
- Dr. Sarah Stockton (1842-1924), the first female physician at Central State Hospital in Indianapolis; and
- Lovina Streight (1830-1910), who earned her title "Mother of the Fifty-first" by accompanying the Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry at battle and nursed the sick and dying.

These are just a few of the ways to observe and celebrate Women's History Month. But, it shouldn't stop there. Learning about women in history should be an integral part of learning about both American history and Indiana history.