



# OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 1, 2021

CONTACT:

Paris Ervin 217.685.2584

Greg Rivara 217.685.2380

## Treasurer Frerichs Honors Illinois Leaders During Women's History Month *Frerichs Recognizes Great Achievements of Women in Illinois*

**SPRINGFIELD** – In honor of Women's History Month, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs today kicked off a virtual campaign to highlight and celebrate the achievements of women in Illinois. This year's national theme for Women's History Month is "**Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced**".

"Women always have played an important role in our everyday lives, history, and success of our country. Yet, for many years, they were silenced," Frerichs said. "We must allow women their voice, fight with them for equal rights, and push with them for diversity across all sectors to make our world a better place to live, work, and raise a family."

Women's History Month is each March. Frerichs will honor the following women for their outstanding commitment to their Illinois communities:

### **Outstanding Commitment in Arts and Humanity**

**Marlena Ascher**

President | Founder, Northwest Arts Connection, Chicago

### **Outstanding Commitment in Community Service**

**Karen Tamley**

President | CEO, Access Living, Chicago

### **Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official**

**Deb Conroy**

State Representative - 46th District, Elmhurst

### **Outstanding Commitment in Leadership**

**Dr. Ngozi Ezike**

Director, Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago

**Outstanding Commitment in Sportsmanship**

**Jonelle Polk McCloud**

Former U of I Basketball Player  
Manager, Peoria's Proctor Recreation Center, Peoria

**Outstanding Commitment in Workforce and Labor**

**Doris Carroll**

Former President of the Illinois Nurses' Association, Vice President for affiliate of the IL AFL-CIO, Delegate with the Chicago Federation of Labor, Chicago

Throughout the month of March, Frerichs will share recorded video conversations with each awardee via his [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These videos also will be hosted online at [illinoistreasurer.gov/heritageevents](http://illinoistreasurer.gov/heritageevents).

**About the Treasurer**

As Illinois State Treasurer, Frerichs is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$37 billion. The portfolio includes \$16 billion in state funds, \$15 billion in retirement and college savings plans and \$6 billion on behalf of local and state governments. The investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of capital. Frerichs' office protects consumers by safeguarding more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property, encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, assisting people with disabilities save without losing government benefits, and removing barriers to a secure retirement. The Treasurer's Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office.

###