



## Barbara Lawson 2015 Leadership Legacy

*The Leadership Legacy Award celebrates a Leadership Howard County graduate or friend whose sustained service to Howard County has added enduring value to our community. Individuals honored with this award have a long-standing commitment to civic involvement and have proven instrumental in creating real and continuing positive change for our citizens.*

**Barbara Lawson (LP 1990): Partner, Synergies Consulting Group**

Barbara Lawson has provided a quarter century of leadership excellence to the Howard County nonprofit community, demonstrating her passion for excellence and personal integrity through her work with countless organizations. As President and CEO of The Columbia Foundation for almost 20 years, Barbara grew The Columbia Foundation from an entity created to help develop Columbia into Howard County's community foundation.

A dedicated and visionary leader, Barbara has served on the boards of Leadership Howard County, Howard Bank, Maryland University of Integrative Health, the Chaney Foundation, Columbia's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, United Way Community Partnership, Howard County Police Foundation and Healthy Families. She recently served on the County Executive's Spending Affordability Committee and chaired the Visual Arts Committee for the Columbia Festival of the Arts. She was one of the founders of the Women's Giving Circle of Howard County and the Little Patuxent Review.

Barbara is a member of the Leadership Howard County Class of 1990 and was named the 2001 Leadership Alumni of the Year. She is the recipient of the 1997 Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Award presented by the Association of Community Services. Her leadership has been recognized through numerous awards including induction into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame and recognition as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women. In 2005, she received the Horizon Foundation's Community Appreciation Award, the Chamber of Commerce's Exemplar Award and the Community Action Council's Reverend Holland Award.

Barbara continues working with organizations in Howard County that have come to understand the enduring value of her leadership. Her passion for enduring community engagement has created an inspiring leadership legacy.