



hartford region

**Contact:**

Kristy Lee Downer  
YWCA Hartford Region  
135 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 061  
[kristyleed@ywc Hartford.org](mailto:kristyleed@ywc Hartford.org)  
(P) 860-525-1163, ext. 292  
(F) 860-543-8919

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN* LUNCHEON SLATED FOR APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

*1,500 People to Gather to Hear Award-winning Broadcast Journalist and Author Michele Norris at YWCA Event*

Hartford, CT- YWCA Hartford Region is pleased to announce the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *In The Company of Women* Luncheon will bring together over 1,500 women and men from the greater Hartford community to hear Keynote Speaker Michele Norris, journalist and author, in the largest women's networking and fundraising event in Connecticut. In addition, an expo of women's boutiques and services will also be available to the attendees. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

Proceeds from the *In the Company of Women* Luncheon will benefit the programs and services of the YWCA Hartford Region including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness and financial literacy. The event is made possible in part by support from Presenting Sponsors Aetna, The Hartford Financial Services, ING and Prudential. "It takes the time, talent and financial resources of many people and organizations to make the programs at YWCA possible. We are truly fortunate to have such generous corporate sponsors as our partners," said Janet Castricum, YWCA Hartford Region Board Chair.

Keynote Speaker Michele Norris is an award-winning broadcast journalist and, host of NPR's *All Things Considered*. As a former correspondent for ABC News, she has received numerous awards including the 2006 National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Award for her coverage of Hurricane Katrina. She has reported extensively on topics that are closely aligned with the mission of YWCA Hartford Region including education, inner city issues, drug problems, and poverty. Her message is sure to leave the attendees inspired and energized.

A special Creating Opportunities Program will be held the morning of the event to introduce a diverse group of young women to the field of broadcast journalism. Participants include young women from YWCA Hartford Region's Young Women's Leadership Corps (YWLC), an after-school program that gives young women the power to persevere both personally and academically. The young women will enjoy a special program and will have their own guest speaker from the broadcast journalism field.

"We believe in creating opportunities one woman at a time. Programs like YWLC help to develop leaders for the future, and give young women the tools to succeed," added Castricum.

Limited seats are still available for the event. For more information about YWCA Hartford Region and the *In the Company of Women* Luncheon, please call Denice Graves at (860) 525-1163 ext. 269 or email [DeniceG@ywcahartford.org](mailto:DeniceG@ywcahartford.org).

###

Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of the YWCA USA, a women's membership movement dedicated to ***eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*** YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment.