



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Women's Foundation Celebrates 30th Anniversary with Award Luncheon and Empowerment Forum Featuring Shiza Shahid, Co-Founder, The Malala Fund

Public "Lights, Courage, Action!" Luncheon to Honor Jacqueline Taylor, Ph.D.;

Private "Empowerment Forum" Hosts Thousands of Area High School Girls;

Both Events to Feature Keynote from Shiza Shahid

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – March 29, 2016 – The West Michigan office of [Michigan Women's Foundation](#) (MWF), a non-profit organization that for 30 years has been working to achieve social and economic equality for Michigan's women and girls, will celebrate the organization's milestone anniversary with two events featuring Shiza Shahid, co-founder of The Malala Fund, the global nonprofit that aims to improve girls' access to education.

Lights, Courage, Action!

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, MWF West Michigan will host, "Lights, Courage, Action!," an anniversary celebration and award luncheon honoring Dr. Jackie Taylor of Pondera Advisors with the organization's 2016 Trillium Award. Dr. Taylor is being recognized for a lifetime of achievement in career and community service, much of which has been dedicated to leveling the playing field for women and girls.

The luncheon will take place 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids, Mich. The event, which will feature a keynote address from Ms. Shahid, is open to the public, and individual tickets (\$100; \$250) are on sale now at <http://miwf.org/events1/lca/western-michigan>.

Empowerment Forum

Also on April 21, 2016, just prior to "Lights, Courage, Action!," MWF West Michigan will host a private Empowerment Forum for several thousand West Michigan-area female high school students, who will receive a compelling and inspiring address from Ms. Shahid.

The Empowerment Forum will take place 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Calvin College Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex in Grand Rapids, Mich. It is a private event and closed to the public, but members of the media are encouraged to attend.

A graduate of Stanford University, Ms. Shahid, a New York City resident, previously worked as a business analyst for McKinsey & Company in the Middle East, before leading the Malala Fund in its work to empower girls through education. She was recently named one of *TIME magazine's* "30 Under 30 World Changers" and to *Forbes'* "30 Under 30" list of social entrepreneurs.

"For 30 years, Michigan Women's Foundation has been working to achieve social and economic equality for Michigan's women and girls...we want to celebrate our decades of achievements, but also acknowledge the work left to do and inspire the next generation who will tackle the challenges that remain," said Carolyn Cassin, MWF president and CEO. "Our annual anniversary luncheon, coupled with our first-ever Empowerment Forum, both featuring Shiza Shahid, are a fitting way to recognize how far we've come, and motivate us all for the work yet ahead."

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About Shiza Shahid

Shiza Shahid is an entrepreneur and advocate focused on leveraging philanthropy, innovation and the media to eliminate poverty and empower women. She co-founded the Malala Fund with Nobel Prize Winner, Malala Yousafzai, and led the organization as founding CEO. She now supports startups, innovators and entrepreneurs combating poverty.

About Michigan Women's Foundation:

Michigan Women's Foundation (MWF), a 501(c)(3) organization, has been devoted to achieving social and economic equality for women and girls in Michigan for 30 years. MWF is supported financially and programmatically by many of the state's top female executives and community volunteers through events like its annual Women of Achievement and Courage Awards and Power of 100 Women donor group. Through philanthropy and high impact initiatives, MWF's goal is to ensure a brighter future for women throughout the state. For more information, visit www.miwf.org.

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