

## PAST WINNERS OF THE ALUMNAE AWARD

1976	Lee Phillip, television personality
1977	Joan Beck, journalist, columnist
1978	Carole Kamin Bellows, attorney, Illinois Bar Association President
1979	Olga Jonasson, physician, Cook County Hospital chief of surgery
1980	Patricia Neal, actress
1981	Georgie Anne Geyer, journalist, author, columnist
1982	Ardis Krainik, Lyric Opera director
1983	Mabel Smythe, ambassador, educator, author, lecturer
1984	Maria Cominou, civil engineer
1985	Barbara Uehling, University of Missouri chancellor
1986	Lois Wille, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
1987	Neena Schwartz, professor of neurobiology and physiology
1988	Wendy Lee Gramm, Commodity Futures Trading Commission chair
1989	Sherry Lansing, Hollywood film producer
1990	Nancy Dussault, actress, singer, talk show host
1991	Nan Robertson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author, columnist
1992	Sondra Gair, National Public Radio personality
1993	Phyllis Elliott Oakley, State Department spokesperson
1994	Lynn Nesbit, literary agent, partner at Janklow & Nesbit Associates
1995	Jeanette Wagner, Estee Lauder International President and CEO
1996	Geneva Overholser, <i>Washington Post</i> newspaper executive
1997	Grace Bumbry, opera star
1998	Founding members and professors, NU Alumnae Continuing Education
1999	Mary Zimmerman, playwright and MacArthur "genius" grant recipient
2000	Augusta Read Thomas, Chicago Symphony Orchestra composer in residence
2001	Barbara Gaines, Chicago Shakespeare Theater founder and artistic director
2002	Laura S. Washington, columnist, editor and publisher
2003	Lois Weisberg, City of Chicago Commissioner of Cultural Affairs
2004	Martha Lavey, Artistic Director, Steppenwolf Theatre Company
2005	Carole Browe Segal, Chief Executive Officer, Crate & Barrel
2006	Christine Brennan, award winning journalist
2007	Nancy Gustafson, opera star
2008	Teresa K. Woodruff, Dean The Graduate School
2009	Marie Arana, author and editor
2010	Sandy Neville Haggart, international charity founder
2011	Bonnie Anderson, Emmy winning journalist
2012	Marg Helgenberger, actress
2013	Johnnetta Betsch Cole, educator and humanitarian
2014	Kelly O'Donnell, journalist and television news anchor
2015	Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer, SpaceX
2016	Lisa M. Franchetti, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
2017	Alicia Boler Davis, executive VP, General Motors Mfg., engineer
2018	Maria Carrillo, Chief Science Officer, Alzheimer's Association
2019	Susan Page, journalist
2020	Heather Headley, singer, songwriter and actress
2021	Roslyn Brock, health policy advocate, Chairman Emeritus, NAACP
2022	Nina Kraus, neurobiologist, author
2023	Kathy Reichs, forensic anthropologist, author



*Engaging Minds, Enriching Lives*

## 2024 Alumnae Award

Honoring  
***Nancy Rotering***  
Mayor of Highland Park, IL, Political Advocate

**Monday, October 14, 2024**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, Evanston, Illinois**

*The Alumnae of Northwestern University's Alumnae Award  
is presented annually to an outstanding alumna  
who has made significant contributions in her field  
and who has attained national recognition.*

**Award Committee Chair:** Michele Bresler  
**Committee:** Sheila Gideon, Maggie Lovaas, Julie McDowell,  
Della Rae Moore, Sandi Riggs, Katy Sutter, Carolyn Utech



## **Nancy Rotering**

Nancy Rotering has fought to reduce gun violence for more than a decade, including leading the Highland Park City Council in passing a municipal assault weapons and large capacity magazine ban in 2013, which withstood a legal challenge by the National Rifle Association (NRA) in federal court. In 2023, in the wake of the July 4, 2022, Highland Park shooting, the State of Illinois passed a state-wide assault weapons ban. Rotering continues to lobby for gun violence prevention at the state and federal levels.

Rotering's career experience includes working as a planning commissioner for the city of Highland Park, Illinois, and as a legislative aide. Prior to becoming mayor of Highland Park, she practiced law with McDermott Will & Emery in Chicago, focusing on healthcare fraud and abuse. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University, a master's degree in health service management, marketing and finance from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, and a juris doctor from the University of Chicago Law School. Her career experience includes work as a financial analyst in General Motors' Treasurer's Office, serving as a planning commissioner for the City of Highland Park, and working as a legislative aide for an Illinois State Representative.

In 2015, recognizing an increasing need for human services in the face of reduced resources, Rotering founded the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, providing free legal services and equal access for justice to northeastern Illinois residents navigating housing, immigration and domestic violence matters.

A strong proponent of advocacy and political engagement, Rotering teaches *Women and American Political Leadership* at Northwestern University and is proud to be recognized as the 2022 Outstanding Instructor by its School of Education and Social Policy (SESP). She is a member of the Northwestern Women's Board, the Council of 100, and founding chair of the women's Health Research Institute Advisory Board at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine, focusing on elevating the need for basic medical research to recognize gender differences.

In 2014, *Today's Chicago Woman* named Nancy Rotering to their "100 Women of Inspiration" and *Forbes* included her in their "Forty Over 40" list. In 2022, she received the Lake County (IL) Harriet Tubman Award, the Lake County Democratic Woman Resist Award, the Blue Crescent Outreach Foundation Social Action Sapphire Award, and the New Trier Democrats Defender of Democracy Award.

## **Alumnae Award Program**

12 p.m.

### **Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests**

***Carol Willis, President***  
**The Alumnae of Northwestern University**

### **Speakers**

***Ivy Domont, Director of Community and Programming***  
**Aftermath, a nonprofit organization**

***Vic Maurer, Director***  
**Major Gifts**  
**Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**

***Nicole Weitowich, PhD, Executive Director***  
**Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Services Institute**  
**Research Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Social Sciences**  
**Feinberg School of Medicine**

### **Remarks**

***Nancy Rotering***  
**2024 Alumnae Award Recipient**

### **Award Presentation**

***Carol Willis, Michele Bresler***