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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Local business founder selected to participate in statewide leadership program**

*Author, business woman, and innovator selected to participate in Leadership Illinois*

Chicago— Yvonne F. Brown, Founder and President of Ball of Gold Corporation, a performance management, training and coaching firm, is one of 18 Illinois women selected to participate in this year's **Leadership Illinois** program. Only 256 women have matriculated through the program, which has been in existence since 1988.

Brown, who serves as a member of the Black Data Processing Associates, the IT Empowerment for Women and Girls Initiative, the Speakers Bureau for the Gender Equity Fund, the Midwest Technology Access Group, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago is honored to have been selected to participate and looks forward to gaining knowledge from the professional development sessions being offered. "Being recognized as one of 18 leaders in the state of Illinois means that I am connected with other women leaders in the state." Brown is also the founder of JAD Communication International, a motivation and human potential firm. She realizes that being chosen to attend the Leadership Illinois conferences and events is a tremendous achievement to add to her lengthy list of accolades and accomplishments. "The selection process starts in November of each year and there is a lot that the applicants have to submit," she said. "Being selected is a great honor because so few people are selected to participate in the program."

Leadership Illinois participants gain insights about important issues facing other organizations, leadership styles, and creative problem solving techniques. With each session the women enhance their ability to contribute more effectively to their own organization and take a more active role in shaping civic, state and national public policy. Conferences for those selected to participate will begin in July and commence in November. The non-for-profit Leadership Illinois organization provides ongoing support by encouraging business, cultural and political leaders to recognize women's achievements and expertise and use them in decision-making roles.

Wayne Hicks, national black data processing associates president, supports Brown in her accomplishment and understands the importance of such leaders being acknowledged. “Yvonne Brown leads by example. She has been a regular presenter for BDPA on a local and national level. Her presentations and books provide excellent motivation and guidelines for IT professionals of all ages and disciplines,” he said. “Ms. Brown is currently one of six BDPA Career Coaches who have volunteered to provide career counseling, resume reviews and so forth for the unemployed and underemployed members of our organization. I'm very proud to know that Yvonne Brown is a member of BDPA!”

For more information about **Leadership Illinois**, please contact Cindy Deadrick, program director, at 1-877-LEAD-IL, or visit [www.leadershipillinois.org](http://www.leadershipillinois.org).

To learn more about Yvonne Brown please contact her at 866-294-0351, or for the Ball of Gold Corporation, visit [www.ballofgold.com](http://www.ballofgold.com).

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