

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Contact: Nora Hayden 518-866-2193**

## **Zonta Club of Columbia Awards Saeeda Ruffin-Daniels Jane M. Klausman Award**

*December 2022 Columbia, SC* - Zonta Club of Columbia, the local club of Zonta International whose mission is to 'build a better world for women and girls,' recently awarded the annual Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship to Saeeda Ruffin-Daniels of Lexington.

The scholarship is awarded to women undertaking business studies at an accredited university/college/institute, including on-line students, who have demonstrated outstanding potential in the business field. The candidate must currently be in at least the second year of an undergraduate program, through a final year of Master's program.

Ms. Ruffin-Daniels was highly recommended by her supervisor at RippleMatch Incorporated, a tech startup based out of New York. "Saeeda has performed the role close to flawlessly and has an incredible eye for the small details," according to Aaron O'Neill, Manager of Product Success.

Dr. Cherie Rains, Assistant Professor of Marketing at Lander University and Saeeda's professor in her graduate MBA course, had this to say, "When Saeeda first started the course, one of the first assignments I read from her turned out to be one of the best papers I had ever read from a graduate student. When you start out at that level and only get better, you know you have an impressive person and a proud representative for our program."

Zonta President, Nora Hayden said the club is thrilled with the selection. "Saeeda has all the qualities deserving of this award. As I read through her application, I was so impressed with what she has accomplished with school, work, and most of all, raising 12 children of which one of her daughters will be graduating from Cornell University and another daughter graduating from University of South Carolina this year. She was the perfect choice for this honor."

Zonta Club of Columbia awards two scholarships annually: The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Award to women pursuing secondary study in business and; the Young Women in Public Affairs award to young women age 15-19.

Saeeda will receive \$500 from the local club here in Columbia and \$5000 from the District (eight states plus the Bahamas and Virgin Islands). This award makes her eligible to be considered for recognition at the national level.

In 2023, Zonta Club of Columbia will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, dedicated to empowering and recognizing the achievements of women and girls throughout the Midlands.

For more information, please visit the website at <https://www.zontaofcolumbia.org> and/or on Facebook at Zonta Club of Columbia.



Saeeda Ruffin-Daniels