

OSCPA member recognized by Smart Business magazine

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An innovative approach to accounting and business consulting services earned Kaiser Consulting and its owner, Lori Kaiser, CPA, significant recognition last week at Smart Business magazine's Smart Women Breakfast.

The Powell-based firm won the Progressive Organization Award at the annual event, held at the Hilton Easton in Columbus. Kaiser thanked her team as she accepted the award.



Left to right, Becky Hixen, CAE, OSCPAs senior manager of student & young professional engagement; Lori Kaiser, CPA; Amy Bonacuse, CAE, OSCPAs VP of communications & marketing; Mandy Hohler OSCPAs student engagement manager; and Karen West, CAE, executive director of The Ohio CPA Foundation pose for a photo Sept. 1 at the Smart Women Breakfast in Columbus. Kaiser's company, Kaiser Consulting, was honored with the Progressive Organization Award.

SmartWomen1609 "Our employees' energy and talent is what makes our organization great," she said.

Kaiser joined 20 Ohio women honored in five categories in front of a packed house at the breakfast.

Kaiser Consulting's flexible project schedules benefit both clients and employees. Employees can choose their own hours and the days they work, and each professional is given the leeway to adjust their schedule quarterly based on their personal needs.

"We have people that only work during the school year and they take the summers off," Kaiser said. "Those kind of things make people appreciate the work situation that they have, so when they are working for us they're working twice as hard."

In business for more than 20 years, the company has grown rapidly.

"At one point I thought, wouldn't it be great if I had 10 employees, that would be a really nice sized company," she said. "And now we have over 50 employees."

OSCPA profiled Kaiser Consulting last year in an OSCPAs Spotlight feature on workplace flexibility.

The Smart Women Breakfast also included a panel discussion featuring Columbus-area female executives. The theme was 'intrapreneurship,' the concept of thinking like an entrepreneur while employed within an organization.

Panelist Susan Gueli, senior vice president, CIO, infrastructure and operations, Nationwide had plenty of wisdom to offer attendees.

"My advice to younger people is to expose yourself to a variety of experiences," Gueli said. "With every role you build perspective and muscle to bring to the next experience."

As for more established leaders, Gueli recommends paying it forward.

"Once you get to a certain point in your career, you have a great obligation," she said. "It's our job to mentor and support other young people as they rise their careers."