Mary Ellen Brock
President, General Federation of Women’s Clubs

Mary Ellen Brock is currently serving as the 2018-2020 International President of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international organization of over 75,000 women from across the country and the world.

Mary Ellen has served as GFWC NJ State President, Past State President’s Club President, and North Jersey Women’s Club President. She has previously served GFWC as President-Elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Women’s Health Program Chairman, Leadership Committee member, Membership Committee member, Bylaws Committee member and Charter President of Shelby’s Stars. She served the GFWC Middle Atlantic Region as Parliamentarian, Finance Chairman, and Conference Chairman. She served 7 years on the GFWC NJSFWC Junior State Board and 19 years on the GFWC NJSFWC State Board.

At her installation, Mary Ellen outlined her goals, the 7 Grand Initiatives. The 7 Grand Initiatives are: that 1,000 clubs will do a service project on Martin Luther King Day; that members will plant 1,000 trees on Arbor Day; that members will donate 1,000 pairs of used shoes; that members donate 1,000 Dr. Seuss books; that 1,000 members join the Legislative Action Center; that members do 1,000 projects devoted to women in the military; and that 1,000 members donate to the Capital Campaign. Mary Ellen’s 3 Brand Initiatives are; Support Miranda’s Law, 3D Printed Gun Safety Act and Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women Winning the Right to Vote.

She was a Girl Scout leader and all 14 girls in her troop attained the "Gold Award", all of whom were honored in the NJ Senate. She was appointed by three governors to the Governor’s Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council, the Governor’s Interpersonal Youth Violence Prevention Committee, and the Governor’s Drug/Alcohol Prevention Council.

Mary Ellen was nominated by the GFWC/NJSFWC Past State Presidents Club.
Loretta P. Finnegan, M.D.
Executive Officer, College on Problems of Drug Dependence Inc.

Loretta is the President of Finnegan Consulting, which addresses education, research and treatment in issues relating to women’s health and perinatal addiction.

More than 40 years ago, Loretta developed a scoring system for newborns. The Finnegan Neonatal Abstinence Scoring System was a ground-breaking key assessment tool for babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). NAS is a group of conditions caused when a baby withdraws from certain drugs (most often opioids) he’s exposed to in the womb before birth. The Finnegan scoring system is still widely used around the world.

Loretta opened a landmark program for pregnant women addicted to opioids. The program, called Maternal Addiction Treatment and Research, has included intensive outpatient treatment as well as residential treatment.

She has authored and co-authored nearly 200 scientific publications and has spoken at scientific conferences in 47 states in the US and many international settings where she has given presentations on topics related to health issues in women and children, particularly with regard to opioid use disorder. She is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in these fields and among the first to develop a program providing comprehensive services for drug dependent pregnant/post-partum women and their children. She has participated in international symposia, conferences and technical consultations and has been a visiting professor in 33 countries.

For her “Pioneering Leadership and Innovative Performance both as a Clinician and Executive Officer and for the Finnegan Score” Loretta was honored with The Surgeon General’s Medallion presented by First Lady Melania Trump, US Health and Human Services Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Health.

Loretta has received many awards including, the Betty Ford Award for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse, the Chimera Award from the European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association and the Phyllis Marciano, M.D. Women in Medicine Award.

Loretta was nominated by Carole Speechley, The Haddon Fortnightly.
Margaret “Marty” A. Gillis  
Business Owner, Community Leader, Advocate

Margaret became the first in her family to graduate college when she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in History Education from Douglass College. She went on to earn a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Rutgers University Graduate School of Business.

She began her career at General Motors Acceptance Corporation, where she was the first woman Company Field Representative. She later joined Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company as a management trainee, becoming the first African American woman accepted into the program. She worked her way up to become one of the first African American female vice presidents.

Nearly 30 years ago Margaret made a pivotal decision to leave a promising banking career to successfully complete the franchise program at McDonald’s Hamburger University. She accepted her first McDonald’s store in Neptune, NJ where she put her business acumen to success, nearly doubling sales. Today she is the Owner/Operator of eleven McDonald stores in Central New Jersey with sales of over $21 million.

Margaret serves as a member of the Rutgers Board of Trustees. She is active with the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College. As Chair of the African-American Consumer Market Committee she has helped create many opportunities for minority owned companies as well as making significant contributions to strengthen the African-American community. Margaret has been inducted into the Rutgers African American Alumnae Alliance Hall of Fame. She established the Gillis Prize which benefits Douglass Residential College students. Additionally, she has personally donated thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school and college students.

For her generosity, community engagement and professional success Margaret has received numerous awards including the McDonald’s 365Black Award, the NAACP Community Service Award, the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Woman’s Award and the Most Outstanding Young Women in America Award.

Margaret was nominated by Valerie Anderson, Associate Alumnae of Douglass College, Executive Director.
Felicia E. McGinty
Executive, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Planning

Felicia is the Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration and Planning at Rutgers University. She is the Executive Officer of New Jersey’s largest land-grant flagship campus, an AAU research university and member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance, educating more than 50,000 students.

She leads and directs day to day, non-academic operations, human resources, information technology, business operations, infrastructure development, space management, oversight for policy development and implementation, communications and marketing and other critical functions that support the student experience and advance the Rutgers academic research and service mission. Felicia is responsible for all aspects of administration, strategic planning, space planning and capital planning initiatives.

Throughout her tenure, Felicia established herself as a trailblazer in sexual violence education, advocacy and prevention. Under her leadership, Rutgers University-New Brunswick has solidified its position as a leader in sexual violence education and prevention work. Their evidence based comprehensive approach has been highlighted by the White House, professional associations and by National Public Radio. Felicia has been the driving force in transforming the Rutgers student experience and creating a climate that embraces diversity, inclusion and equity.

Felicia is the Chair of the Paul Robeson Centennial Committee which celebrates the life and accomplishments of esteemed alumnus, Paul L. Robeson. She has also implemented the Annual Jewel Plummer Cobb STEAM Women’s Empowerment Conference to honor the legacy of the first African American Dean of Douglass College. The conference serves 300 university and high school students and engages alumnae, corporate and university partners.

Felicia has been awarded the Phenomenal Woman Award by the Jewel Plummer-Cobb STEAM Women’s Empowerment Conference. She has received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award at Northern Arizona University for outstanding service to the University and community.

Felicia was nominated by Valerie Anderson, Associate Alumnae of Douglass College, Executive Director.