

WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

MARCIA TAYLOR

Marcia Taylor, CEO of **Bennett International Group**, knows that success in logistics is about listening to customers, drivers and employees and then caring deeply about meeting their needs... and always being willing to help.

"The same holds true in my community. Taking action when we hear of a need instead of sitting on the sidelines is what God calls us to do," said Taylor, who is being honored in the 2017 Women Who Mean Business Awards sponsored by Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Taylor founded the company with her late husband in 1974. When he died unexpectedly in 1981, she made the decision to press on and grow the business, becoming a female leader recognized for excellence and providing women opportunities in a male-dominated industry.

Under her leadership, the company grew from a five-truck contract carrier to a \$370 million logistics and freight



SPECIAL

Taylor's foundation allocates part of company earnings to charity.

services company. It has eight divisions and a network of more than 4,500 employees, agents and owner/operators.

In 2012 she founded The Taylor

Foundation, which allocates a percentage of Bennett's earnings to charities focused on faith, family values, children and patriotism. The foundation also funds a logistics scholarship at Clayton State University.

"This has brought me into contact with so many wonderful people, including Clayton State University who awarded me an honorary doctorate last year. I didn't have the opportunity to go to college, so that recognition was a big accomplishment for me," Taylor said.

Bennett is the only trucking company to offer a "Women in the Driver's Seat" program to female drivers and logistics professionals. Taylor is interested in improving women's health and is the former chair of the board at Piedmont Henry Hospital, where she was the lead donor of the Marcia G. Taylor Women's Center.

"For women, I get involved in things that help them be bold. Taking a risk in our industry and leading with confidence is what gets us ahead," Taylor said. "I am

really driven by adventure. I took steps early in my career to do nearly everything in our family trucking business. As years have passed, I still look for new things to try based on what I learn from people, whether it's building a warehouse, getting into social media or starting a crane company. You can't help people by sitting still."

She also serves on many local and national boards, including Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Council of National Policy and United Community Bank.

"Marcia Taylor has achieved numerous business and civic accomplishments that demonstrate that she means business when it comes to her professional life and community involvement," said Connie Mulqueen, social media and content manager of Bennett International Group.

To read an online Q&A with Taylor, go here: <http://bizj.us/1pctuu>