



## MARTHA MAYHOOD MERTZ

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**Martha Mayhood Mertz** is the founder of ATHENA International (formerly ATHENA Foundation), a non-profit organization that seeks to support, develop and honor women leaders, inspire women to reach their full potential, and create balance in leadership worldwide. She is also a speaker, author, and successful real estate entrepreneur as president and owner of the Michigan-based firm Mayhood/Mertz Investment, Inc.



Mertz was President of ATHENA International from its inception in 1982 to May 1999. She serves ATHENA now as a board member and an ambassador, traveling the globe to share its message: That women bring a distinctive, transforming approach to leadership — an approach that goes beyond gender to speak to all who would lead in the 21st century. Since 2000, Mertz's work on behalf of ATHENA has taken her to China, to participate in an international conference on issues of importance to women; to England and to India, to join new ATHENA Award programs in presenting their first awards in those countries; and to the United Arab Emirates, to teach Zayed University students the principles of ATHENA leadership and establish a cross-cultural mentoring program for young women.

Mertz gives presentations on women and leadership, serves as a spokesperson at ATHENA Award events, is a permanent member of the ATHENA International Board of Directors and continues to be a voice for balanced leadership worldwide.

As president and owner of Mayhood/Mertz Investment, Inc., Mertz actively served the Lansing, Michigan, community. She was president of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, founding partner in several development/management partnerships in the Lansing area, and a leader in numerous other local organizations. Mertz was honored as one of the Top 25 Women Business Owners in Michigan by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), and selected as the Michigan Women-In-Business Advocate by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Other awards she has received include the Visionary Award from Office Depot, in 2004; the Vassilissa Award in Moscow, Russia; and induction in 2006 into the Entering Women's Hall of Fame.

Mertz received her B.A. in Women's Studies and Psychology from Michigan State University. She currently resides in Sedona, Arizona, with her husband, Dr. Edward Ingraham.

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