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Girl Scouts honor 6 Women of Distinction

Winners include U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, university trustee Ann C. Hicks.

The Times-Union

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council's 17th annual Women of Distinction honors were given to six recipients Friday. According to the council, the winners are:

- U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., has been representing Jacksonville in Congress since 1992. She also served in the state House for a decade. She is the second vice chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus and a member of the Women's Caucus and the Human Rights Caucus.
- Rita Cannon has served on several committees and boards of directors, as well as helping with fund-raisers. She is chairwoman of the Jacksonville Public Libraries Foundation and a member of the Library Guild and The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. She is the wife of Times-Union Publisher Carl Cannon.
- Betty P. Cook is a member of the Greater Nassau and Amelia Island/Fernandina Beach Chambers of Commerce and the Nassau County Economic Development Board. She also is a longtime supporter of Florida Community College at Jacksonville and is the namesake for Florida Community College's Betty P. Cook Nassau Center.
- Ann C. Hicks is a trustee for the University of North Florida and the Jacksonville Public Library and a board member for HabiJax and the Cummer Museum. She formerly served on the Jacksonville Area Planning Board and was a board member of Daniel Memorial Home.
- Janice G. Lipsky is a longtime supporter of the Girl Scouts and former president of the council's board of directors, having led the drive to buy land and build a new Girl Scout camp in Clay County and to expand the council's area to include Flagler County. She is a vice president for St. Vincent's Health System.
- Susan Wildes is a senior community relations consultant for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. She has served on boards of several organizations, including the American Cancer Society Duval Unit, Women's Network at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club and the American Heart Association.

The council also honored Laura D'Alisera and Marietta LeBlanc as 2005 Jesse Elizabeth Meuse Diversity Appreciation Award winners. Meuse is credited with helping bring African-American girls from Northeast Florida into the Girl

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Scouts.

D'Alisera is associate director with the Florida Center for Public and International Policy at the University of North Florida. LeBlanc is community education manager for Community Hospice. Both have been involved in several study circles for the Girl Scouts.

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