



NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, October 8th, 2019

GROWBIZ CEO JACKIE BRIERTON INDUCTED INTO OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SCOTLAND HALL OF FAME

Perthshire-based enterprise support organisation GrowBiz CEO Jackie Brierton MBE was announced as one of ten new inductees to the Saltire Society's Outstanding Women of Scotland at the weekend.

The inductees were announced at the Women of the World Festival in Perth on Saturday.

Set up in 2015, the Outstanding Women of Scotland campaign celebrates those inspirational women who have made a significant contribution to Scottish culture and society. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, singer songwriter Annie Lennox and bestselling author J K Rowling are amongst the previous inductees.

This summer, members of the public were invited to nominate women they feel should be considered for the honour and recognised for the inspiration their achievements provide to others.

2019's inductees come from a range of backgrounds and fields, including the arts, culture, politics, activism, science and enterprise, and who have a positive impact on those around them and work tirelessly to make Scotland a better place to live and work.

Jackie's fellow inductees include Professor Jill Belch, Professor of Vascular Medicine at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School in Dundee, Perthshire's Margaret Bennett, Professor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, Celia Hodson, the founder of Hey Girls which tackles period poverty ecologically, and Zakia Moulaoui, the founder of Invisible Cities which trains people who have experienced homelessness to become walking tour guides of their own city.

As well her role at GrowBiz, which works with hundreds of diverse and innovative rural businesses across Perthshire, Jackie is also chair of the Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER Local Action Group, vice-chair of Women's Enterprise Scotland and a member of the National Council of Rural Advisers.

She has more than 30 years' experience in business and enterprise, including a stint as CEO of the UK's first women's enterprise centre, Wellpark, and is passionate about helping people to realise their potential through enterprise.

She said: "It is a great honour to be inducted into the Saltire Society's Outstanding Women of Scotland community.

"This accolade is also recognition for the work GrowBiz does supporting enterprise in rural communities in Perthshire.

"We work with hundreds of diverse and innovative rural businesses across the region and improved digital technology has encouraged many more enterprises to grow in rural areas, providing role models and opportunities for the younger generation.

"I am genuinely inspired every day by the innovation and creativity that people, including young people, women and those living in rural areas, demonstrate.

"My being part of this amazing community of fantastic women will hopefully provide further inspiration and support to women who are thinking about going into enterprise and I am grateful to the Society for giving me this opportunity."

For further information on GrowBiz, see the website at www.growbiz.co.uk, follow GrowBiz Perthshire on social media or sign up to be added to the GrowBiz mailing list by emailing connect@growbiz.co.uk

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For media enquiries, contact Clare McMicking on telephone 07514 343042 or email clare@growbiz.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- GrowBiz is an independent, community-based organisation providing support to anyone starting or growing a business in rural Perthshire
- GrowBiz Scotland (known as GrowBiz) is a company limited by guarantee number SC341655, and a Scottish Charity number SC043278, with registered office at Bank of Scotland House, Union Street, Coupar Angus
- GrowBiz is funded by Perth and Kinross Council, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Government, and the Making Rural Business Digital project is supported by the Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Programme 2014-2020: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas. For more on LEADER go to www.pkleader.org
- Since October 2016, GrowBiz has supported more than 900 clients across all business sectors
- GrowBiz runs an award-winning business mentoring programme, which currently has over 70 participants and which is the first in Scotland to achieve the Scottish Mentoring Network Quality Standard
- GrowBiz offers one-to-one meetings with clients as well as peer support and peer learning sessions
- Follow GrowBiz on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter by searching for GrowBiz Perthshire