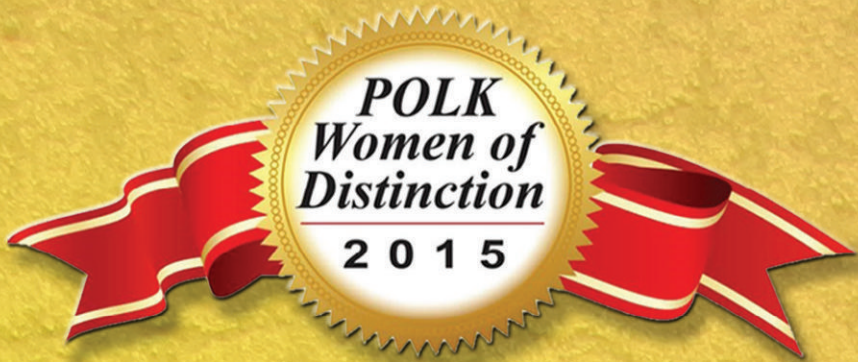




# Seretha Tinsley

## Tinsley Concessions



# Business

## Seretha Tinsley a lady of many accomplishments

By STEVE STEINER

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“I’m a teacher by nature,” Seretha Tinsley said. It’s more so the school of life than that of the classroom where Tinsley excels. “I love kids. I do better teaching them life skills better than book skills.”

Tinsley is a 2015 Woman of Distinction in the business category.

As an integral member of Tinsley Family Concessions — she is the CFO of several ventures, such as PenGeo Inc., named after her and her husband’s daughter and son, and which is a KFC franchise — the role she has played in coaching and developing many youth through those businesses.

Employment in the fast food industry, she said, is populated by many teens and she is constantly endeavoring to make a difference in their lives. For many, this is their first job, so teaching them to be successful in both school and work and beyond is a high priority for Tinsley.

As a result, a number of projects find Tinsley involved in an integral role. For instance, she is one of the founders of Chain of Lake Achievers, which developed as an offshoot of a similar program at the Lake Wales YMCA, which took its inspiration from a program started in a New York City YMCA.; Tinsley was involved with the Lake Wales Y program.

At one point she even served on a missionary project to Africa.

Tinsley said that she comes from a family that always made (and still makes) it a point to give back to the community. Both her father and stepfather were ministers. Her mother was a social worker. In fact, a



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**Seretha Tinsley is extensively involved with a number of ventures for the benefit of children.**

program that her mother conducted in Louisville, Ky., where Tinsley hails, is one she instituted here in Polk County: Clothe the Child.

What her mother did was work out arrangements with local retailers and then take children who were in need of essentials to those stores where they would be able to select clothing and Tinsley’s mother would then purchase.

In Polk County, Tinsley created something similar. With assistance from people in the community, she would get the names of children — often those who need assistance but often not on any agency’s “list” and take them to a local retailer, such as Kohl’s.

Tinsley began her professional career as a teacher, which she did for



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**Seretha Tinsley (third from right), is a leader in the community, both in the business world and civic endeavors, as well on a personal level.**

three years before she transitioned to a career in radio, beginning as a file clerk for her father, who owned “the first black-owned radio station in Kentucky.” Eventually she progressed into sales and became a general manager, including stints in Atlanta and Jacksonville.

Through the years, Tinsley has

garnered many recognitions for both her business acumen as well as her service to civic organizations and the community-at-large. She said she attributed her life to a set of philosophies.

“I have three philosophies in life,” she said. “The first is, ‘To whom much is given, much is expected.’ The second is, ‘To thine own self be true’ and the third is the Golden Rule.”

As flattered as she is to being named a 2015 Woman of Distinction in the business category, Tinsley deferred the credit.

“It has nothing to do with me,” she said. “It goes to God and the direction he has pointed me towards.”

## Special Recognition

Emily Clark  
Spath Jewelers

Lotta Kay Struthers  
Struthers Honey,  
Mary Kay

Nancy Kostelic  
The Exchange

Jennifer Hall  
SEMCO

Dede Lefils  
Watson Pharmacy

### Linda Ann Truitt Melange Antiques & Art Gallery



Linda Ann Truitt moved her antique shop/art gallery to Lake Wales from Venice, FL featuring not only art and antiques but also vinyl records, CD’s and books.

Linda bought and restored the 1922 Watkins-Johnson house on Lake Wailes.

Melange Antiques & Art Gallery  
207 E. Park Ave.  
Lake Wales, FL 33853

PH. 941.355.1107

### Seretha Tinsley PenGeo, Inc.



PenGeo, Inc.  
P.O. Box 469  
Winter Haven, FL  
863.299.7177  
www.tfcfamily.com

Seretha Summers Tinsley stepped out on faith in 1983 to go into business with her husband, opening their first KFC franchise in Auburndale. The family, including their son and daughter, now operate concessions in several airports. A past Chairman of the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce, Seretha is committed to many community causes, especially those related to education and youth.

### Carolyn “Dede” Lefils Watson Pharmacy



adno=3276181

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Fax:863.635.2831  
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Carolyn is a local small business owner since 1972, who also has been an active civic leader. Carolyn has been a two time president of The Frostproof Area Chamber of Commerce, vice president and board member of the Ramon Theater for 4 years. Carolyn has been an active member of the Frostproof Rotary for more than 6 years and has served in a fund raising capacity for several years. Carolyn has been in supporting beautification projects, such as the palm trees that now grace Frostproof’s main street. Carolyn was Frostproof’s Woman of the Year for 2012. She is a great asset to Frostproof.



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