

PRESS RELEASE

Marriage Matters Jackson

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Marriage Matters Jackson's Shelby Raines to be awarded Spring Arbor University Alumni "Young Leader" Award

JACKSON, Mich. Shelby Raines, Parma, Michigan, will be awarded the Young Leader award from Spring Arbor University, Saturday, Oct. 8 at their Alumni Awards Banquet on campus. Raines, managing director of Marriage Matters Jackson, is a 1996 graduate of the university. The purpose of the award is to recognize superior achievement of alumni whose lives exemplify Christian principles and who are outstanding leaders in their profession and community, and who demonstrate promise of further distinction.

Raines' career with Marriage Matters Jackson (MMJ) began in 2006 when she was hired to lead an emerging Jackson county marriage initiative, funded initially and primarily by the Weatherwax Foundation. She is recognized as the "face and voice" of MMJ through her countless community presentations, serving as a radio co-host and teaching numerous relationship and marriage workshops. Propelled by her leadership, MMJ has grown to serve thousands of people every year through events, workshops and resources all aimed to promote, prepare and preserve healthy marriages.

A lifelong resident of Jackson County, Raines and her husband, Drew, have three young children and are active with the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church. She considers marriage education her personal mission, and her faith and family the foundation of her success.