

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Aerin Lauder, Serena Williams among FIT gala honorees

February 14, 2022



Honorees of FIT's upcoming awards gala. Images courtesy of FIT

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) has announced four individuals who will be honored at its upcoming annual awards gala benefitting the FIT Foundation.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**  
Plus: Just released  
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

The four honorees include television and film producer Debra Martin Chase, founder and CEO of Harlem's Fashion Row Brandice Daniel, style and image director of Estée Lauder Aerin Lauder and 23-time Grand Slam tennis champion Serena Williams. Hosted by Nina Garcia and Michael Kors, the gala will take place on April 13 at The Shed in New York.

"We are so proud to recognize these outstanding leaderswomen who have made a profound impact in their respective industries spanning fashion, beauty, sports, and entertainment," said Dr. Joyce F. Brown, president of The Fashion Institute of Technology, in a statement.

"Each one in her creativity, determination, drive and self-confidence serves as a role model for FIT's talented students who are inspired by their many achievements."

Honoring excellence

Ms. Chase will receive the Vanguard in Entertainment Award for her achievements in Hollywood.

She has broken a number of barriers as the first Black woman to produce a movie grossing over \$100 million with *The Princess Diaries*. Her reboot of "The Equalizer" franchise, starring Queen Latifah, was the number one new television show last season.



*The event will be hosted by ELLE editor in chief Nina Garcia and designer Michael Kors. Images courtesy of FIT*

Ms. Daniel will receive the Outstanding FIT Alumni Award for her work in creating a platform for designers of color during New York Fashion Week and supporting women in building successful businesses.

Ms. Lauder will be recognized with the Business and Entrepreneurship Award for the entrepreneurial spirit, business acumen and creativity that fueled her eponymous brand AERIN.

Ms. Williams will receive the Fashion Icon Breakthrough Award for her achievements on and off the tennis court, from investing in companies that embrace diversity to launching her own clothing line.

The tennis legend has also worked with a number of notable luxury brands like [Gucci](#) and [Stuart Weitzman](#).

The annual gala benefits the FIT Foundation, which helps nurture future FIT students. In addition to facilitating programs and developing new initiatives, the foundation provided scholarships totaling more than \$3 million in 2021.

---

© 2022 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.