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ICONHONORS.COM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ICON HONORS 2018:
EMPOWERING INDUSTRY INNOVATION**

ATLANTA — April 19, 2018 — The most anticipated and important night in the home and gift industry advances to a transformative new staging and aesthetic when **ICON HONORS 2018** fills the spectacular AmericasMart® Building 3 atrium with its annual celebration of those recognized for supreme achievement across a wide spectrum of accomplishments, according to Jeffrey L. Portman, Sr., AmericasMart chairman, president and chief operating officer.

Highlighting the new ICON HONORS staging and introduction of the 2018 Honorees will be an industry-exclusive address by **Arianna Huffington**, founder of The Huffington Post and founder and Chief Executive Officer of Thrive Global. Huffington’s presentation will imprint a new mark of contemporary cultural thought leadership upon ICON HONORS, which from its founding has championed the role of independent business in the global economy, notes Portman.

“The convergent forces of innovation, creative expression and entrepreneurial energy equip the home and gift industry with an inexhaustible power source almost beyond our comprehension,” says Portman. “Each year, ICON HONORS offers us a glimpse of this greatness in the stories of those who achieve truly remarkable things,” he adds.

For the first time ever, ICON HONORS will be open and accessible to all July Market attendees by virtue of its new staging, and will be showcased and broadcast like never before as the centerpiece of AmericasMart LIVE, which delivers an eclectic mix of thought-leader presentations and original broadcast content, capped by Huffington’s address.

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The celebrated author of 15 books, Huffington launched The Huffington Post in May 2005. Her eponymous news and blog site quickly became one of the most widely-read, linked to and frequently-cited media brands on the Internet, and in 2012 won a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting. In August 2016, she launched Thrive Global, a corporate and consumer well-being and productivity platform with the mission of changing the way we work and live by ending the collective delusion that burnout is the price we must pay for success. She has been named to TIME's list of the world's 100 most influential people and the Forbes Most Powerful Women list. Originally from Greece, she moved to England when she was 16 and graduated from Cambridge University with an M.A. in economics. At 21, she became president of the famed debating society, the Cambridge Union. She serves on numerous boards, including Uber and The Center for Public Integrity.

ICON HONORS 2018 is Thursday, July 12, 2018. It is produced by AmericasMart in partnership with the Gift & Home Trade Association (GHTA) and Progressive Business Media, and in association with the industry foundation Gift For Life. Please visit www.ICONHONORS.com for more information.

ABOUT AMERICASMART

AmericasMart Atlanta is the nation's only global wholesale marketplace housing the world's single-largest collection of home, gift, area rug and apparel merchandise. The largest of AmericasMart's 16 annual Markets and shows, The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market and The Atlanta International Area Rug Market in January and July are the ignition switch for global retailing with buyers from every U.S. state and as many as 70 countries discovering product in more than 1,500 showrooms and more than 3,500 temporary exhibiting companies. [ICON HONORS](#), the home and gift industry's most celebrated recognition program, is produced and staged annually by AmericasMart.

Located in downtown Atlanta, the AmericasMart complex contains more than seven million square feet of space. It's a huge global stage on which manufacturers, designers and sales representatives unveil new lines, launch new designs and introduce new categories – all for the benefit of buyers seeking all that is fresh and first in the home, rug, gift and apparel arenas. For more information, please visit www.AmericasMart.com. Follow us @AmericasMartATL or @AtlantaApparel.

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