



**THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL  
DRIEHAUS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE  
RAISES OVER \$170,000**

**CASH AWARDS PRESENTED TO DESIGN STUDENTS,  
PROCEEDS BENEFIT PARTICIPATING DESIGN SCHOOLS &  
CHICAGO FASHION INCUBATOR**

**Over 460 Guests Attended this Chic Competition  
Featuring 25 Emerging Designers**

**CHICAGO (May 2014)** – Driehaus Design Initiative celebrated the achievements of 25 emerging Chicago fashion design students at The Thirteenth Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence on Friday, May 9.

The first place \$5,000 prize was awarded to Kendel Kennedy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Neiman Marcus Vice President Wendy Krimins also selected Kennedy as the recipient of the Neiman Marcus Distinguished Designer Award. Kennedy will have the opportunity to display her winning designs at Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue and will receive a mentoring session with a Neiman's retailer. The second place \$2,500 prize was given to Rosa Halpern from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Rachael Levine from Columbia College Chicago received the third place prize of \$1,000.

Additionally, all participants are invited to join Driehaus Design Initiative and Neiman Marcus at the *Runway to Showroom: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium* where industry professionals will provide essential tips to help elevate their brand and launch a successful business.

Hosted by Inese and Richard H. Driehaus, The Thirteenth Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence was held at 700 S. Des Plaines Street. The private space in the warehouse district was transformed by high-tech, state-of-the-art staging, lighting, sound and projection to showcase these emerging designers in a format comparable to runway shows in New York, Paris and Milan.

This high energy fashion show competition was judged by industry insiders: Project Runway star **Kate Pankoke**, creative director of Elaya Vaughn Bridal by Kate Pankoke; **Lindsay Segal**, co-owner of Luxury Garage Sale; and **Alison Siple**, a Jeff Award-winning freelance theatre costume designer.

Participating local Chicago schools included: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, the Illinois Institute of Art, Sanford-Brown College and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Proceeds benefit the schools and Chicago Fashion Incubator.

**About Driehaus Design Initiative**

Driehaus Design Initiative, an IRC section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established to promote and encourage design education and to foster public appreciation and understanding of all aspects of fashion design and history. Driehaus Design Initiative contributes proceeds from The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence to support fashion and design endeavors in Chicago.

For more information please visit [driehausdesign.org](http://driehausdesign.org).