



**Driehaus Design Initiative® Welcomed 350 Guests to  
*The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence***

**Runway Show Competition Featured Original Garments from  
Top Emerging Fashion Design Students Raised \$130,000**

CHICAGO (May 2018) -- Driehaus Design Initiative celebrated the future of fashion by welcoming 350 guests to *The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence* on **Friday, April 27**. The event, themed *Close-Up*, featured a runway show highlighting the talents of top emerging Chicago fashion design students, and raised \$130,000 to support fashion and design endeavors in Chicago.

*The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence* took place at **Chicago Vintage Motor Carriage** (700 S. Desplaines Street), a unique venue that provided guests exclusive viewing access to a private collection of classic American cars.

The dynamic runway competition showcased nearly 200 garments from 24 designers' innovative collections, including a detailed look at intricate sewing techniques, fabric selection and overall excellence in garment construction. Collections presented include ready-to-wear, evening wear, outerwear, sportswear, bridal and wearable art.

**Linda Yu**, host of *The Chicago Sun-Times* video series, Food We Love, and **Sylvia Perez**, News Anchor/Reporter on Fox 32 Chicago, emceed the elegant fashion soirée and fundraiser. The impactful evening included a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and specialty cocktails, live entertainment, a live auction, and an exclusive VIP after-party presented by Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

The first place winner, **Lindsay Holeso**, from Columbia College Chicago, took home \$7,500, and a prize package including photography, hair & make-up, and models for the production of a lookbook, an apparel display at Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, and additional mentorship and media opportunities. The second place winner, **Maria Beniaris**, and third place winner, **Carolyn Ni**, both from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as the five honorable mention designers won cash honorariums.

A panel of industry experts judged the competition including **Sanja Manakoski**, Costume Designer; **Kpoene' Kofi-Nicklin**, Creative Director, Mignonette Bridal;

and **Mark Roscoe**, President, Mark Roscoe Design. **Wendy Krimins**, General Manager, Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, selected **Rachel Radulescu** from Columbia College Chicago to receive the [\*Neiman Marcus Distinguished Designer Award\*](#). The award includes a window

display at the Michigan Avenue store, plus a one-on-one meeting with Wendy to discuss retail business essentials and an additional one-on-one meeting with a senior buyer or executive to practice pitching their collection.

Participating students will be invited to join Driehaus Design Initiative and the Chicago History Museum for the [\*\*\*Runway to Showroom®: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium\*\*\*](#). The symposium is a day of industry-led panels and open dialogue, focusing on business, to help designers achieve success. It also includes a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's costume collection.

Local fashion and design schools participating are: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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

#### About Driehaus Design Initiative

Driehaus Design Initiative, a 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.

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