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The Women's Forum of New York Honors Companies with Female Board Representation at "Breakfast of Corporate Champions"

NEW YORK, November 2, 2011 – The Women's Forum of New York, a preeminent organization of women leaders representing the highest levels of achievement, today hosted the "Breakfast of Corporate Champions" at the New York Stock Exchange to honor publicly traded Fortune 1000 companies that are changing the face of leadership by putting women in the boardroom. At the event, 52 companies from the tri-state area were recognized for achieving at least 20 percent female representation on their boards.

"These honored companies demonstrate that gender diversity is a strategic business imperative at the highest level. Showcasing their success will inspire other companies to tap into the strong pipeline of qualified women leaders for their boardroom and the C-Suite," said Janice Ellig, president of the Forum and co-CEO of executive search firm Chadick Ellig.

The panel discussion centered on the topic "Women on Boards: Why Now and How?" and featured distinguished business leaders, including:

- Stephen Holmes, chairman and CEO, Wyndham Worldwide
- Shelly Lazarus, chairman, Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide
- Murray Martin, chairman, president and CEO, Pitney Bowes
- William McCracken, CEO and director of CA, Inc.
- Lulu C. Wang, chairman and CEO, Tupelo Capital Management L.L.C.
- Moderator: Pat Mitchell, CEO, The Paley Center for Media

The Breakfast not only recognized corporate leaders who have successfully increased female participation on their boards, but also tapped into their experience to teach attendees how they found women leaders and how their boardroom involvement translated to a strategic advantage. The event also featured testimonial quotes from CEO's from the honored companies that build the business case for gender balance and diversity and concluded with remarks by Kathryn Wylde, CEO Partnership for New York City.

The Women's Forum announced that as a follow up to this event the organization will establish a database of board qualified women which corporations can access to increase gender balance on their boards. "The idea that qualified women aren't out there is a myth," said Ellig, "we want to help business build their business by accessing the talented women we know are out there and ready for corporate boards."

For further information, please visit: <http://www.womensforumny.org/womensforumny/>

About the Women's Forum of New York

The Women's Forum is New York City's preeminent organization of over 430 women leaders representing the highest levels of achievement across all professional and business sectors from finance to fine arts. Membership in the Forum is limited and by invitation only. Founded in 1974, the mission of

the Women's Forum is to advance women's leadership by maximizing the potential of its members through core programming that enriches personally and professionally, by removing barriers through educational awards to high potential women who have faced adversity and by expanding and extending women's leadership contribution through participation in corporate boards. The New York organization inspired Women's Forums in major cities throughout the United States and internationally. Today the Women's Forum of New York is the flagship of the International Women's Forum organization comprised of 66 affiliates with nearly 5000 members around the world with operational headquarters in Washington, DC.

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