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**It is a pleasure to announce
the 2010 Winners
TIAW World of Difference 100 Awards**

The TIAW World of Difference Award recognizes women whose efforts have advanced the economic empowerment of women locally, regionally or worldwide.

**Congratulations to these exceptional women who truly "make all the difference in the world".
Scroll down for full story.**

Name	Country	Category
Nancy Aber Goshow	New York, USA	Entrepreneurial
Crispina Agcaoili	Philippines	All
Selima Ahmad	Bangladesh	Community/Entrepreneurial/NGO/Education
Ramzia Aleryani	Yemen	Community/Not for Profit/NGO
Mary Anderson	Oakville, Canada	Corporate
Esther Maria Carles	Panama	Community/NGO/Government
Alberta Cefis	Toronto, Canada	Corporate
Kathy Conway	Toronto, Canada	Not for Profit/NGO
Eva Cox	Australia	Not for Profit/NGO
Dr. Beatrix Dart	Toronto, Canada	Education
Donna Davis	Phoenix, USA	Entrepreneurial
Rose Marie Jaen de De Leon	Panama	Education
Graciela De Oto	Argentina	Not for Profit/NGO
Pam Dinsmore	Toronto, Canada	Corporate
Nino Elizbarashvili	Tbilisi, Georgia	Entrepreneurial
Kristin Engvig	Switzerland	Entrepreneurial/Education
Marsha Firestone	New York, USA	Not for Profit/NGO
India Gary-Martin	UK	Corporate/Not for Profit/NGO
Dame Janet Gaymer CBE QC	UK	Public Service/Government
Heather Gibb	Ottawa, Canada	Not for Profit/NGO
Leona Hobbs	Toronto, Canada	Community
Susan Hogan	Newark, USA	Corporate
Heather-Anne Irwin	Toronto, Canada	Not for Profit/NGO
Francoise Jeanpierre	New York, USA	Education
Phyllis Keino	Kenya	Not for Profit/NGO
Alicia Kershaw	New York, USA	Community/Not for Profit/NGO
Sonia Khandji Cachecho	Syria	Entrepreneurial
Dr. Marise Koch	Tanzania	Not for Profit/NGO
Dr. Alison Konrad	London, Canada	Education
Raghda Kurdi	Jordan	Entrepreneurial/Public Service/Government
Wendy Leibowitz	New York, USA	Education
Lynda Leonard	Ottawa, Canada	Not for Profit/NGO

The International Alliance for Women

Anna Lopez Brosche	Florida, USA	Entrepreneurial
Bjarney Ludviksdottir	Iceland	Not for Profit/NGO
Dr. Elizabeth Mann	Florida, USA	Not for Profit?NGO
Monika Milz	Netherlands	Corporate
Roz Morris	UK	Not for Profit/NGO
Sabetha Mwambenja	Tanzania	Community/Corporate
Vered Neta	Netherlands	Education
Muhayo Nossirova	Republic of Tajikstan	Not for Profit/NGO
Barbara Orser	Ottawa, Canada	Entrepreneurial
Astrid Pregel	Ottawa, Canada	Public Service/Government
Dorothy Quann	Toronto, Canada	Coporate
Ximena Ramirez Gonzalez	Nicaragua	Not for Profit/NGO
Uma Reddy	India	Community
Claudia Schmitz	Germany	Not for Profit/NGO
Denise Seegobin	New York, USA	Education
Monica Smiley	North Carolina, USA	Entrepreneurial
Nancy Spence	Toronto, Canada	Public Service/Government
Connie Sugiyama	Toronto, Canada	Not for Profit/NGO
Vilija Turiene	Lithuania	Not for Profit/NGO
Elizabeth Vazquez	Washington, DC	Corporate/Not for Profit/NGO
Sue-Sharyn Ward	Dubai	Not for Profit/NGO
Anne Watts	UK	Public Service/Government/Corporate/Not for Profit/NGO
Rosalind Wee	Philippines	Entrepreneurial/Not for Profit/NGO
Margaret Weir	Washington, USA	Public Service/Government
Julie Weeks	Empire Michigan, USA	Entrepreneurial
Karolee Wolcott	Australia	Community
Betty Wood	Toronto, Canada	Community
Ruth Woods	Toronto, Canada	Not for Profit/NGO

Award Winners' Stories

Nancy Aber Goshow, New York, USA*Category: Entrepreneurial*

Nancy Aber Goshow, AIA, LEED AP is the founding partner of Goshow Architects in New York City. Ms. Goshow is a strong advocate of educating and mentoring up-and-coming architects and women entrepreneurs in the predominantly white male industry. Through the Eugene M. Lang Entrepreneurship Center at Columbia University, Ms. Goshow mentors women MBA students in launching their new businesses. She uses her knowledge of architecture, design, business development and small business strategy to improve access for women-owned businesses to contracts with federal, state and local governments through her active involvement with women's organizations. She is co-chair of the Women in Architecture Committee of the New York Chapter of the AIA, a founder of the Women Builders Council of New York, and a member of Women Construction Owners & Executives (WCOE) and the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO). She is also a national founding partner and Co-Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee for Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), where she leads a number of seminars helping to mentor women entering the federal government marketplace.

Crispina Agcaoili, San Mateo, Philippines*Category: Non-Profit/NGO, Public Service/Government*

Crispina Agcaoili is a powerhouse for women's economic empowerment, making an impact in an impressive array of activities. She organized the Local Council of Women of San Mateo, uniting 18 different women's organizations in the municipality where she lives to fight for the empowerment of women, poverty alleviation, social justice and environmental awareness. The council trains women in entrepreneurship by organizing opportunities for them to display their wares in booths at product exhibits, and involves women in environmental projects as well. She also works with the Pag-asa Bayanihan Association (PBA), an organization of women whose main objective is to alleviate poverty through the creation of livelihood programs. The PBA is now known for its special product, salted eggs that have been marketed through trade fairs. A busy physician by profession, Ms. Agcaoili has also raised a family of five children, and supported her husband in his political career as mayor of San Mateo.

Selima Ahmad, Dhaka, Bangladesh*Category: Community, Non-Profit/NGO, Entrepreneurial, Education*

Selima Ahmad, was a 16 year old pregnant bride when she and her husband started a handicrafts business in 1978 with only \$500 in capital. Their company is now a \$200 million business involved in automobiles, cement, sugar, real estate,

and financial services. She guides entrepreneurial talent, organizing financial and marketing resources to enable women get over hurdles in a Muslim, male-dominated, poverty-afflicted society. She founded the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) in 2001. Thanks to Selima, 3,000 women came into entrepreneurship and 1,000 entered global markets. A South Asian phenomenon, Selima strives to improve Bangladeshi women in business by mobilizing financial and management resources globally through alliances and persuasion. She motivates, energizes and empowers entrepreneurs to never give up in enterprise building. The results of her advocacy with government are clearly visible and the difference she has made is extraordinary.

Alberta Cefis, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Corporate

Alberta Cefis is a trailblazer in every sense of the word, not only serving as a role model, but actively supporting women to achieve their career and business goals. Alberta is a founding co-chair of the Advancement of Women executive steering committee at Scotiabank, one of Canada's largest banks, and one with international presence. In this role, she drove a significant increase in the representation of women in senior management, more than doubling female representation in the past four years, including three of them to her executive team. A role model who is currently the Executive Vice President and Head of Global Transaction Banking at Scotiabank, Ms. Cefis has been a staunch advocate for supporting women's access to credit and equality in financial affairs, leading efforts to abolish the requirement for women to have their husband's approval when applying for credit. She is a mentor informally and formally through women's organizations, and is a frequent speaker on women's advancement.

Kathy Conway, Toronto, Ontario Canada

Category: Non Profit

For almost two decades, Kathy Conway has been a superb champion of women's advancement, particularly in career coaching, which is her true passion. Ms. Conway serves on the Board of Canadian Women in Communications and is a past board member of The International Alliance for Women. An expert in career coaching and mentoring, she was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the CWC Mentorship program in 1997, cited as "best in class" by many. She was the author of the comprehensive toolkit for both mentors and mentees that is a key part of the program. Ms. Conway has also anchored CWC's career development programs for almost 15 years, and most recently following up with a series of workshops built around an on-line self-directed career development program that she developed as a volunteer, called Career Energizer. She mentors women, formally and informally and has made herself available to provide sound career development advice to colleagues and acquaintances. As a member of the TIAW Board of Directors, Ms. Conway also created a toolkit to guide women in their governance careers, a source of information and best practice that will be shared around the world. In all she does, she motivates, and inspires with humour, wisdom and insight.

Eva Cox, Sydney, Australia

Category: Community/Non Profit

Eva Cox is a long-term activist and social scientist, as well as being a frequent critic of government social policy in the public domain. In the 1970s, Ms. Cox became a leading spokesperson for the Australian Women's Electoral Lobby. She helped to found the Women's Economic Think Tank and was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1980. Her current writing and activism is in an income management program for indigenous Australians, and exemplifies her efforts to speak on the basis of research evidence and critiques of the social and economic underpinnings of a program that affects women and families in the Northern Territory of Australia. Ms. Cox is a role model to other women to assert their vision based on substantive search, critiquing and innovative thinking about shifting old and inequitable mindsets in relation to social policy and their impact on the economic advancement of women.

Dr. Beatrix Dart, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Education

Dr. Beatrix Dart is a passionate champion of business education for women. As Associate Dean of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, she founded the Rotman initiative for Women in Business, developing top tier programs, courses and workshops facilitating women's success in business at every stage of their careers, from the classroom through to the boardroom. Under Dr. Dart's leadership, the initiative has also established an active network for professional women with more than 600 members. As a professor at Rotman, Dr. Dart has made herself available to students well beyond normal expectations and coaches her female students to prepare them for interviews with global consulting companies, offers career advice and mobilizes her personal and professional networks on their behalf. Her leadership style is warm and inclusive, exemplifying a strong leader who truly makes a difference.

Donna Davis, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Category: Entrepreneurial

Donna Davis carries an energy and charisma that is seldom found today. Many of us recognize Ms. Davis as a successful serial entrepreneur, and ardent supporter of women understanding the economic impact and significance of women themselves! Ms. Davis is CEO of the Arizona Small Business Association, dedicated to helping small businesses prosper. Ms. Davis is a founding Partner of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), a membership of Leadership America and Charter 100. She is also Past President of the National Association of Women Business Owners, the 2004 recipient of the prestigious ATHENA Award for greater Phoenix and a US SBA Women in Business Advocate of the Year. She is an inspirational leader who works tirelessly on behalf of those she leads and serves.

Rose Marie De Leon, Panama City, Panama

Category: Education

In her profession, Rose Marie De Leon is a trained nurse with 15 years experience in surgery, neonatology, intensive care and geriatrics. As the creator of a course that is designed to meet the home care needs of seniors with the equally urgent need for career opportunities for unemployed women, her impact goes far beyond her duties. The course trains caretakers in nutrition, dementia care, dealing with bed-ridden patients, recreation and other health topics. In addition to skills, the course instills the importance of earning income, being self-sufficient, self-esteem and small business initiatives. Not only have women been trained for care giving roles, but they have also created their own micro-enterprises and cooperatives. The topics Ms. De Leon has advocated have since been included in university curricula and her determination to economically empower women is being felt beyond the original goal of filling a gap in health care.

Graciela De Oto, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Category: Non Profit

Graciela De Oto is a business woman and counselor whose tragic loss of a child led her to develop a philanthropic view of life. This helped her to grow, emotionally and professionally, which led her to found Suma Veritas, a place where women could establish a logical link between knowledge and skills, a connection necessary to increase women's

empowerment as entrepreneurs, leaders, and, most importantly, professionals in their fields. Ms. De Oto writes articles on women's issues, participates as a speaker at conferences, represents Business Professional Women as member of the Development, Training and Employment Committee, and as an Expert in the Leadership & Lifelong Learning Committee. Her energy, enthusiasm and search for innovative ways to encourage women led to her radio program, "The Irresistible Feminine Force." Ms. De Oto's ongoing concern about the role of women in society and business motivated her to enter the educational field, taking control of a bilingual school in Buenos Aires that was about to go bankrupt; thus preserving the education of 250 girls and the jobs of 100 workers. Her outstanding work in other areas has also been recognized by the Italian government for providing moral and cultural sponsorship in the Calabria region, and she was the first Argentinean woman to receive the Women in Business Award as Best Latin-American Entrepreneur in New York.

Pamela Dinsmore, Toronto, Ontario Canada

Category: Non-Profit

For more than a decade, Pamela Dinsmore has been a powerful advocate for the career advancement of women in the communications and media sectors in Canada. Ms. Dinsmore has been tireless in her efforts to eradicate barriers to women's career advancement. With her hallmark calmness and analytical acumen, she served three years as Chair of Canadian Women in Communications (CWC) and currently chairs the Rogers Women's Network, providing support, networking and professional development for the women in Rogers. She has also served on the Board of the Media Awareness Network (MNet), an organization that advocated media literacy, particularly as it relates to the way women are portrayed in the media. She not only volunteers her time, but has also opened her home to host various events in support of women's advancement. Ms. Dinsmore has been a formal and informal mentor of women, within the CWC and Rogers mentorship programs. In 2007, Ms. Dinsmore was selected to participate in The Judy Project, a prestigious leadership training program for women at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. In all of these roles, Ms. Dinsmore has shared her thoughts, knowledge, expertise and leadership and in doing so, leaves a large footprint on the career advancement of women in Canada.

Nino Elizbarashvili, Tbilisi, Georgia

Category: Entrepreneurial

Nino Elizbarashvili, is the founder and the President of the Georgian Association of Women In Business. In 1998 she established the first Business Incubator in Georgia as a businesswoman and expert on small and medium business. Ms. Elizbarashvili's work in supporting and assisting women in the Republic of Georgia is astounding. Shortly after the breakup of the Soviet Union, followed by a civil war in Georgia, she established the leading businesswomen's association in Georgia. Since 1998 she has been successful in securing funding from various international donors to set up training and incubator facilities to train women who are vulnerable, isolated and marginalized by territory and conflict in Georgia. Her energy is tireless. Ms. Elizbarashvili has helped establish a highly successful micro lending program for women entrepreneurs in Georgia which has grown from an initial investment of \$60,000 to almost a million dollars in loans with virtually no default. She has established incubator and training centres which attract international volunteers to help train local women to start micro enterprises in everything from hairdressing, catering, laundry, word processing to other services. She is working with women in remote regions to encourage the production of local crafts for tourism and to preserve local traditions. The situation of women in strife-torn Georgia is not an easy one with men absent and women vulnerable and often isolated, on top of political tumult. Throughout all of this, Ms. Elizbarashvili has been a pillar of strength to women who are less fortunate. With her passion and advocacy for women's well-being, she is truly a woman who is making a difference in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of women in Georgia.

Kristin Envig, Lausanne, Switzerland

Category: Entrepreneurial

Kristin Envig is a Norwegian-born social entrepreneur whose unwavering vision of a female leadership model has had a major impact on thousands of women from around the world. Ms. Envig has dedicated the last 13 years of her life to promote, empower and develop professional women. As the creator of Women's International Networking (WIN) in 1997, she was one of the European pioneers in supporting women working internationally, with the annual WIN conference attracting more than 700 women from as many as 70 countries. WIN has become an important touchpoint for corporations who see it as an integral part of their diversity strategies. Her vision is inclusive, and each year, one percent of the profit from each conference is put into a scholarship fund to enable women from developing countries to attend the conference. She is a regular speaker at Working Women's Conference internationally, mobilizing women to organize and connect.

Marsha Firestone, New York, NY, USA

Category: Non-Profit

Marsha Firestone is a leader among leaders. She has dedicated her life's work to the advancement of women in all business arenas through founding both the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO) and the Women Presidents' Educational Organization (WPEO). Through WPO, Marsha has created a rich learning and peer advisory environment for women entrepreneurs across the globe. With eighty-nine chapters on four continents, Ms. Firestone's initiative supports women entrepreneurs in North and South America, Europe and Africa by helping them to grow their businesses. In addition, WPO enables the education of young women by implementing an annual financial literacy program for girls ages eight through thirteen. The WPEO has opened doors for women entrepreneurs and start up businesses through the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) certification and high-level programming to educate both women business owners and Fortune 1000 companies about the opportunities that lie in contracting with women-owned businesses. The WPEO has certified over a thousand women, and continues to grow as one of the largest regional partner organizations of WBENC. Beyond the organizations, Ms. Firestone is a leader whose business skill and savvy commands respect and admiration. She has truly gone above and beyond for women in all stages of business, and has set the stage for women entrepreneurs everywhere to emulate her.

India Gary-Martin, London, UK

Category: Non-Profit

India Gary-Martin is an inspirational leader and an effective agent of change in her professional working life, and also in her commitment to empowering women. Professionally, she has managed complex challenges in City roles, including COO, and CIO management roles within the financial services sector, with postings in New York, London, Frankfurt and Tokyo. She became President of City Women's Network (CWN) in March 2010, and is a significant media spokesperson on the subject of women in business, gaining recognition for these issues at policy and political levels. She is deeply committed to ensuring that women gain access to mentoring to help them achieve their true potential. In 2009, she was included on the Power list 2010 of the 100 most influential African Caribbean people in the UK, for her "influence and profile in the investment banking world, service to charity and mentoring leadership".

Dame Janet Gavmer CBE QC, London, UK

Dame Janet Gaymer CBE QC, London, UK

Category: Public Service/Government

Dame Janet Gaymer CBE QC is an eminent lawyer who not only serves as a role model, but acts as an advocate for women. She has been described by her peers as “the foremost female solicitor of her generation”. In 2004, she was named as one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Britain by Management Today and The Times named her as one of the Most Powerful and Influential Lawyers in the UK. Since 2006, Dame Gaymer has been the Commissioner for Public Appointments in England & Wales. In this role, she has been a great promoter of diversity, encouraging ethnic minorities and women to apply for public appointments, and accepting invitations to speak on this subject. A strong supporter of networks for women in business, she is the Patron of the City Women’s Network, a Board Member of the International Women of Excellence and a member of Forum UK. Over the years she has made significant contribution to employment law in the UK, including aspects relevant to women such as pioneering good practice on flexible working. She has also been a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission’s Advisory Board.

Heather Gibb, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Heather Gibb has been a senior researcher at the North South Institute in Canada for more than 18 years and has specialized in gender issues, equality, human rights, labour and migrant rights. All of these topics are instrumental in the support and advancement of women, particularly vulnerable women, and women in developing countries. Ms. Gibb’s work is highly regarded, going beyond anecdotal evidence to provide hard facts supporting improvements to laws and conditions relating to women. Ms. Gibb was a co-founder of the Women Leaders Network of APEC in 1996, and is in high demand as a speaker and advisor at international conferences focusing on policies that will affect women and gender. She has contributed to women’s economic empowerment in so many ways: She spoke at the University of West Indies, Jamaica on Women and Labour Migration; she was a consultant to the UK Department for International Development regarding the development of a Gender Equality and Trade Strategy; she was Lead Researcher on the “Gender and Regional Trade Agreements”, paper produced for the 13th Meeting of the APEC Women Leaders Network and APEC Gender Focal Point Network. As her multifaceted advocacy and research attest, Ms. Gibb has been a strong and informed voice in advocating for change for better conditions that affect hundreds of thousands of women worldwide.

Leona Hobbs, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Community

Leona Hobbs has been an instrumental volunteer organizer in establishing Toronto’s Girl Geek Dinners since its inception in June 2007. The Toronto dinners are part of the Global Girl Geek Dinner movement (started by Sarah Blow in London UK). The goal of these events is to provide a platform for learning about new technologies, making it accessible and interesting to women, encouraging women to enter into the Information Technology fields and to remain employed in the IT industries around the world. The group provides a welcoming atmosphere and support to effect positive change in the IT business environment for women as it is still largely predominantly male. With Ms. Hobb’s leadership, the Toronto Girl Geek dinners have become one of the most sought-after, affordable professional development events for women in the city. Women who attend make valuable connections, gain industry knowledge and confidence to continue to develop and advance their careers in the IT sectors. Ms. Hobbs shares her social media expertise voluntarily with organizations such as Wired Women, ITAC, Canadian Women in Communications and the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Businesses and others.

Susan Hogan, Newark, New Jersey, USA

Category: Corporate

Susan Hogan is a champion of women entrepreneurs, using her position as the Manager of Supplier Diversity at PSEG Corporation to ensure that women-owned companies are an integral part of the supply chain. Ms. Hogan has extended this commitment in her capacity as a volunteer for the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners (NJAWBO), acting as a mentor in their corporate supplier diversity initiative, coaching women business owners on how to compete for corporations like PSEG. She is there to offer guidance, to improve practices and support the effective communication of business services by women business leaders. Ms. Hogan is also the President of the Supplier Diversity Development Council of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, continuing her work to ensure more women and minorities are given the opportunity to compete on utility contracts, walking the talk, using her generosity and expertise to make a difference.

Heather-Anne Irwin, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Heather-Anne Irwin has always held a fierce commitment to the career advancement of women. Just days after her first child was born, she took the stage as the inaugural President of the Board of Women in Capital Markets to launch the organization with several hundred women, with Canada’s former Minister of Finance, Barbara McDougall, in attendance. Her accomplishments in three consecutive years as President, included the first video to help girls in high school to understand the career opportunities in capital markets, and the launch of a luncheon series on professional development. She continues to serve the organization as co-chair of the WCM Mentorship Program, an initiative to offer career guidance to women new to the capital markets industry, a program she introduced in 1997. Now adjunct Professor of Finance at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, Ms. Irwin continues her advocacy on behalf of women, as a member of the jury for the WCM Award for Leadership.

Françoise Jeanpierre, New York, NY, USA

Category: Education

Françoise Jeanpierre and Wendy Leibowitz have worked as a team for over ten years, successfully spearheading the Financial Women’s Association mentoring programs that focus on economic and career success for women. Wendy and Françoise have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of these programs by overseeing educational and cultural events, recruiting mentors and sharpening program development. This past year, they helped create new programs through grants from BMO Capital Markets and E*Trade. These include an online mentoring community which links the students with the mentoring program as they move on to college, and a career workshop where students gain career and workforce development training. At recent graduation ceremonies, high school seniors proudly shared their personal experiences of how their mentors had helped them develop and grow. The FWA mentoring programs ensure that the students remain in school and continue their education after they graduate. Ms. Leibowitz and Ms. Jeanpierre’s dedication and personal commitment, along with the results enjoyed by over 200 mentees and mentors over the years, have made a World of Difference in women’s economic empowerment.

Alicia Kershaw, New York, NY, USA

Category: Education, Non-Profit/NGO, Community

Alicia Kershaw has an impressive record of supporting women's advancement through philanthropy and direct involvement. As a retired attorney, her activities have ranged from mentoring programs for women lawyers, to fundraising women's leadership programs at the Harvard Divinity School. While in Hong Kong, she coordinated charitable donations for the American Women's Association, and co-founded The Women's Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong, through research, community programs, education and advocacy. Although she now resides in New York, the Women's Foundation continues to develop new programs such as "Empowering Women in Poverty" to achieve great economic self reliance and "Combating Gender Stereotyping" in schools. She sits on the board of governors for the Fund for Women in Asia, whose mission is to provide a voice for women and girls and a disciplined approach to funding educational and development program for girls in Asia. The fund was most recently accepted into the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Ms. Kershaw is the founder of Gallop Inc., a therapeutic horseback riding program for clients with emotional and cognitive disabilities. Ms. Kershaw is a lifelong rider and certified NARHA Instructor and Auxiliary Mounted NYC Patrol Officer.

Phyllis Keino, Eldoret, Kenya

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Phyllis Keino is a woman who has truly made a difference in many different ways. For the past 10 years, she has run Lewa Children's Home, and a large farming operation, Baraka Farm in the area of Eldoret, Kenya. The farm is a cooperative where produce grown on the farm, and milk from the farm's dairy, are sold locally to help support a home that currently houses over 100 children from Eldoret who have been orphaned or abandoned by the AIDS pandemic. In addition to her leadership as a role model, these operations provide regular employment, training and support to over 20 women from the local community, including agricultural training. This in turn has significantly improved the lives of countless families in the community through education and workshops. Ms. Keino is a valued member of the community who consults regularly with women in the community to further develop programs that elevate the entire community, including significant economic empowerment for women.

Sonia Khandji Cachecho, Damascus, Syria

Category: Entrepreneurial

Sonia Khandji Cachecho is an influential champion of women in business, leading by example, and also through her advocacy on behalf of others. She is currently the General Manager of Wella Company (Procter & Gamble), which produces and distributes hair care products in Syria, as well as founder of a local women-led company "Regita," which produces healthy snacks for the Syrian market. Ms. Cachecho has played numerous leadership roles in fostering women's advancement in business, including founding member of the Industrial Business Women Committee in Damascus, member of the Arab Women Investors league in Cairo and the Committee for the Elaboration of National Strategy for a Sustainable National Development, and was the first business woman at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce. She was elected President of the Businesswomen's Committee in that organization. Ms. Cachecho has chaired and addressed conferences on business women's subjects in a variety of countries, and participated in the first Euro-Arab Business women meeting in May 2005, in Granada, as the head of the Syrian Business Women Group.

Dr. Marise Koch, Rhotia Valley, Tanzania

Category: Non-profit/NGO

Five years ago, Dr. Marise Koch went to Tanzania to attend a medical conference and ended up staying five years in the small village of Rhotia Valley to devote herself to the betterment of the community. Trained as a physician in the Netherlands, she turned her efforts to the youngest members of the community. She started a home for children in the community who were orphaned or neglected due to AIDS, and added an accompanying four-star tented guest lodge. In the process, she provided economic empowerment for more than 40 local women who were taught to sew, cook and participate in operating hotel business. The children's home cares for 36 children who live in six houses. Each house also employs a local woman who is trained to care for the children, cook and provide basic medical treatments. Each of these women are encouraged to develop their own small businesses in the process. Dr. Koch has also established very strong connections with the local tribal council who have given her an honorary position in the community.

Dr. Alison Konrad, London, Ontario, Canada

Category: Academic

Dr. Alison Konrad's highly accomplished academic career has been focused on issues that are critical to women's careers, from work-life balance to the impact of gender role attitudes on women's earnings over the span of their careers. She has been widely published with more than 50 research articles on gender and diversity in organizations, appearing in publications such as the Academy of Management Journal, Administrative Science Quarterly, the Journal of Management Inquiry, Human Relations, the Psychological Bulletin, Sex Roles, and the Strategic Management Journal. In 2006, Dr. Konrad co-authored with Vicki Kramer and Sumru Erku, a pivotal study on how critical mass accentuates the positive impact of women on corporate boards, entitled: Critical Mass on Corporate Boards: Why Three or More Women Enhance Governance. She has also published articles of crucial importance to women's careers and earning power including Gender-Role Attitudes and Earnings: A multinational study of married women and men; Family Demands and Job Attribute Preferences: A four-year longitudinal study of women and men. The work of Dr. Konrad has significantly advanced the understanding of the factors that can accelerate or hinder the ability of women to fulfill their career and earning potential.

Raghda Kurdi, Amman, Jordan

Category: Entrepreneurial, Public Service/Government

Raghda Kurdi is a trailblazer in the pharmaceutical industry in Jordan where she served as founder and General Manager of Advanced Pharma Services, going on to own and manage two pharmacies as well as serving as founding CEO of Hayat Pharmaceutical Industries. Ms. Kurdi is a champion of women's issues locally and internationally, serving on the Executive Board of the International Women's Forum, and was founding President of the organization's Jordan chapter. Ms. Kurdi is a Board Member of the Arab International Women's Forum in London, UK and a member of the higher council of the Jordanian National Forum for Women. She also served in 1999 as a Member of the Economic Consultative Council of His Majesty King Abdullah II.

Wendy Leibowitz, New York, NY, USA

Category: Education

Wendy Leibowitz and Françoise Jeanpierre have worked as a team for over ten years, successfully spearheading the Financial Women's Association mentoring programs that focus on economic and career success for women. Wendy and Françoise have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of these programs by overseeing educational and cultural events, recruiting mentors and sharpening program development. This past year, they helped create new programs through grants from BMO Capital Markets and E*Trade. These include an online mentoring community which links the students with the mentoring program as they move on to college, and a career workshop where students gain career and workforce development training. At recent graduation ceremonies, high school seniors proudly shared their personal

experiences of how their mentors had helped them develop and grow. The FWA mentoring programs ensure that the students remain in school and continue their education after they graduate. Ms. Leibowitz and Ms. Jeanpierre's dedication and personal commitment, along with the results enjoyed by over 200 mentees and mentors over the years, have made a World of Difference in women's economic empowerment.

Lynda Leonard, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Lynda Leonard has been a passionate advocate for the advancement of women for more than two decades, particularly for women in the telecommunications and technology field. She has been tireless in her promotion of women in the burgeoning Information Communications Technology field where women are still vastly underrepresented in many organizations and functions. Her accomplishments include helping to establish the first Ottawa chapter of the Wired Woman Society. Although her responsibilities far outstrip the advancement of women in Canada's technology sector, she has taken on that mission, working with Canadian Women in Communications to provide career development programs and services for women in the ITAC member companies. Ms. Leonard has also been a vocal proponent for more than a decade to get more women onto the boards of technology companies. She has pushed to get more women onto the ITAC board, which draws its directors from the senior ranks of companies in the Information Communications Technology sector. Ms. Leonard has also supported the efforts of numerous organizations and initiatives with her time and strategic counsel to help effect change and greater gender diversity in the industry. While Ms. Leonard's work has been tremendously important to career advancement of women in the sector, she has pursued her mission quietly and without fanfare or recognition, making her one of the unsung heroines of women's economic empowerment.

Anna Lopez Brosche, Jacksonville, Florida, USA

Category: Entrepreneurial

In all she does, Anna Lopez Brosche acts upon her passion for helping women business owners achieve success, prosper and contribute to their communities. Through her efforts, the Jacksonville Women's Business Center (JWBC) commissioned an original research study to understand the status of women-owned business in the Northeast Florida. The research provided critical information to create programs that meet the needs of women business owners, as well as providing a baseline of the economic impact of women owned businesses. In 2008, she was also instrumental in creating the JWBC's Business Women of Color initiative to reach out and engage business women, of color and all ethnicities, as participants, volunteers and sponsors. Before that, as Chair of JWBC's Programs and Services Committee, she helped create a highly successful program that teaches women about communication in business: verbal, nonverbal, and differences between women and men's communication styles. For the past five years, she has also served as a mentor for JWBC's, Financial Matters program, creating the curriculum and teaching one of the workshops. Ms. Lopez Brosche is the immediate past chair of the JWBC Advisory Board. **Bjarney Ludviksdottir**, Mosfellsbaer, Iceland *Category: Community* Bjarney Ludviksdottir is an inspiring role model to many women in the way she continuously finds ways to shine a light on women's self-esteem. Ms. Ludviksdottir was one of the directors for the Icelandic casting company called ESKIMOS, one of the first Icelandic model agencies to set up their own offices in countries such as India. Through her work as casting director, she focused her efforts on helping young women with low self-esteem blossom into high-profile models. When she redefined her future in 2008, she turned to training, supporting and empowering women in efforts ranging from a charity featuring top Nordic singers to help women entrepreneurs in Africa raise funds for a project helping women entrepreneurs take their ideas and translate them into business projects in a program called "BRANDit". Her latest project is called "Kvenefli" in Icelandic, which could be translated as "Power of Women". It connects powerful Icelandic women to support other women who are not able to afford personal coaching to reach their full potential. The program offers training, teaching, mentoring and coaching at no cost. The sponsors behind the projects are other powerful women who want to contribute their knowledge, skills to others to "pay their success forward".

Dr. Elizabeth B. Mann, Gainesville, Florida, USA

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Dr. Elizabeth Mann, Professor Emerita, Florida State University, has always been a trailblazer and a stalwart champion of women. She has been involved in Women's Rights groups for many years. She was a founding member of the Florida Women's Alliance and its President in 1984. She organized the Capital Women's Network in Tallahassee and was a member of The International Alliance Board of Directors for several years and in that capacity organized the first panel about women serving on Corporate Boards. From the start, organizing that panel began efforts to address the issue on an ongoing basis, and it remains an important initiative today of TIAW. Seeking a meaningful way for women to connect and contribute once they are at or approaching their retirement years, she developed and led TIAW's "Life's Best Third Program" for several years. In her professional life, Dr. Mann helped countless women become knowledgeable about money and finance as a professor of economics.

Monika Milz, Putten, Netherlands

Category: Corporate

Monika Milz has done it all – banker, leader, top 50 most influential women in the Netherlands, top 5 shortlist for Female Manager of the Year, Member of the Board of the University of Master, the Amsterdam Institute of Finance and the Dutch-German Chamber of Commerce. But that's only a part of her story. In addition to her many career accomplishments, Ms. Milz is foremost a champion of the advancement of women in corporate roles and in the not-for-profit sector. She took up the challenge of getting more women into senior executive positions in 2003 when the CEO of Unilever said he would like to include more women on the executive but couldn't find candidates. From that grew a group of powerful advocates called the Rosenblatt, a group of 12 highly influential corporate women. This group held discussion dinners and a major symposium to raise awareness of the issue, and encourage companies to make it a priority. Their efforts have had an impact with a majority of boards in the Netherlands actively seeking to increase the number of women on their boards of directors, so much so that Rosenblatt has become a brand, and a symbol for the realization that corporate culture in the Netherlands needs to change. Being a change agent is a longstanding activity for Ms. Milz who in the 1980s at AMRO bank was active in the Women and Finance group and from there the Stichting Vrouwen Network for women executives. At Rabobank, she is a role model and mentor to many women, and when she was head of Human Resources, significantly increased the number of women as mid-career hires at the executive level.

Roz Morris, London, UK

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Roz Morris has worked for numerous women's groups and women's voluntary organizations for the past 25 years and thus contributing greatly to the advancement of women in their careers and economic power. In the early 1990s she was Chair of NETWORK, a major network for professional women in London and other major UK cities, and represented NETWORK on the UK Government's Women's National Commission. She then joined the Board of the Women of the Year Lunch and for the past 15 years has been on the Nominating Committee for that event and also ran an extremely

successful publicity campaign for Women of the Year Lunch from 1998 to 2000. Since joining City Women's Network in 2004, she has run the Membership Committee. She also served as Vice President from 2008 to 2010, during which time she ran an extraordinarily successful press and media campaign for CWN's 30th Anniversary. She has been Vice Chair of the Governors of Queen Elizabeth Girls School Barnet where, in addition to her voluntary work as a Governor, she gave talks about media careers to the students. In May 2010, she represented CWN at a major women's business conference, the 20th Global Summit of Women in Beijing.

Sabetha Mwambenja, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Category: Corporate, Community

Sabetha Mwambenja is a role model for women, holding the position of CEO at Exim Bank Tanzania Limited since 2000. She is also a trailblazer, becoming the first General Manager not only of Exim Bank but within the banking industry in Tanzania in 1998. Under her leadership, Exim Bank has grown in leaps and bounds to become one of the top 10 banks in Tanzania with 18 branches countrywide and has actively supported women's economic and financial empowerment by opening the first fullyfledged department in Tanzanian banking to cater to women entrepreneurs. Through Ms. Mwambenja's ground breaking efforts and influence, Exim bank not only lends to women entrepreneurs but also to microfinance institutions that in turn also empower women economically and create jobs for women. The net result of Ms. Mwambenja's efforts is a 30 percent increase in the number of women employees at Exim, and widespread improvement in the support of women entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

Vered Neta, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Category: Education

Vered Neta brings a remarkable wealth of knowledge and wisdom to everything she does to empower women. She has succeeded as an archaeologist and business person and understands the material as well as the social world we live in. She has traveled the world and sought answers to some of life's most fundamental issues. After accomplishing so much, Ms. Neta has chosen to share that power and experience with women as she coaches and trains on leadership. Thousands of women have had the benefit of her perspective on feminine leadership, whether they are looking at corporate careers or their own financial empowerment. In her own words, her teaching is "about creating a life that has possibilities without the stress, it is about combining two worlds and not having to choose between either/or. It is about giving hope, a sense of community and living a simpler and a more fulfilling life". Her courses on financial freedom in particular, ensure that women achieve success in life through many avenues. Her stories, insights and practical advisory skills provide the right combination of coach, mentor, leader and corporate citizen.

Muhayo Nossirova, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Category: Non-Profit/NGO, Public Service/Government

Muhayo Nossirova is a qualified agronomist and gender specialist/advocate in the Republic of Tajikistan, championing the economic strength of women in the dire economic conditions of a country that is the poorest of all the former Soviet republics. Many women work for very low or no wages in cotton fields, while their husbands work in Russia or Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan is a muslim country and while not extreme, is very traditional. Ms. Nossirova has spent her career trying to improve the conditions, and working conditions of women in the fields, through Oxfam International, and as a consultant to the International Finance Corporation. She has developed and implemented improvements to the working conditions of thousands of women at virtually little or no additional cost to international donors. She has also developed training for traditional men to teach them to improve the lives of women, cleverly quoting the Koran where it tells men to treasure women. Through Ms. Nossirova's techniques, hundreds of cotton farms in southern Tajikistan are more efficient and profitable, and women workers now have greater access to better wages, working conditions and are starting to obtain assets. Her work is all the more remarkable for a shy woman who, with little recognition and fanfare, is making a world of difference.

Dr. Barbara Orser, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Category: Entrepreneurial, Education

Dr. Barbara Orser has long been a steadfast champion of women entrepreneurs, using her intellect, research skills, connections and force of will to move women's entrepreneurship forward in Canada. Dr. Orser is the primary driving force behind the Taskforce for Women's Business Growth, a national and non-partisan consortium of prominent women business owners, small business training agencies, academics and industry associations that is fostering the growth of existing women-led businesses. In 2004, Dr. Orser created the Economic Forum on Women Entrepreneurs: Sustaining the Momentum. This important conference brought together leading edge research about women entrepreneurs, examined government support for women business owners, and identified gaps in research and public policy. The forum was a Canadian first. Dr. Orser is an Associate Professor at the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa, and has published more than 70 journals, scholarly and industry-related reports, as well as co-authoring two books on small business.

Astrid Pregel, Ottawa, Canada

Category: Public Service/Government

Astrid Pregel, a career diplomatic in the Canadian foreign-service, has had an enormous impact on other women, both within the foreign service as a mentor and also as a champion for women in trade and entrepreneurship. Ms. Pregel was determined to increase the number of Canadian women exporters to the U.S and thus conceived and led the organization of the first Canadian all-women's trade mission ever. More than 100 Canadian women entrepreneurs travelled to Washington with the Minister for International Trade in 1997, followed in 1999 by the Canada - USA Businesswomen's Trade Summit when more than 125 US women entrepreneurs travelled to Canada to attend a trade summit and participate in a trade mission. Ms. Pregel's vision and leadership resulted in the first ever research on Canadian women doing business internationally, the creation of a women in export trade program within the government of Canada and a website devoted to women in international trade. Many of these initiatives have subsequently been copied by other countries. Ms. Pregel has always been an outspoken and committed advocate for women. She created Feminomics, a boutique consulting company focused on the intersection of gender equality, entrepreneurship, leadership and the economy. She completed a Ph.D. in international development focused on leadership, economic growth and gender. She acted as the senior Advisor on Women's Economic Prosperity to Status of Women Canada, and most recently, senior Advisor on Gender and Sustainable Economic Growth to the Canadian International Development Agency. Ms. Pregel's intelligence and passion have provided a beacon of awareness for women and policy makers.

Dorothy Quann, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Corporate

Dorothy Quann is an outstanding example of someone who has advanced the empowerment of women through her professional associations and community work, standing as a staunch champion of women throughout her career. Ms. Quann has been an active leader of women at Xerox, including a stint as chair of the Xerox Annual International Women's conference, an important gathering of women leaders from across the company's operations. Ms. Quann's

support of women goes beyond her role at Xerox. She is a member of the Catalyst advisory committee in its study of associate female lawyers in Canadian law firms, an important research study tracking the progress of women in the legal field and identifying the specific challenges faced by women in the profession. Ms. Quann has been a role model, serving as the first female president of the Association of Canadian General Counsel and is a member of the Common-Law Honour Selection Committee at the University of Ottawa.

Ximena Ramirez Gonzalez, Managua, Nicaragua

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Ximena Ramirez Gonzalez has worked tirelessly for the past ten years to create and promote El Congreso Permanente de Mujeres Empresarias de Nicaragua (CPMEN). CPMEN defends the interests and needs of Women Business Owners and has become an important forum for women to establish business relationships. As President of CPMEN since 2000, Ms. Gonzalez has led the organization to become a powerful voice for women entrepreneurs, and through its annual conference, has encouraged women in Latin America and the world to meet, attend and learn from one another. A successful entrepreneur, Ms. Gonzalez has been General Manager of Euroamericana Tourism since 1998. As a role model, the enormous energy she brings to improve the personal and professional lives of women entrepreneurs in Nicaragua and throughout Latin America is inspiring.

Uma Reddy, Shardambanagar, Bangalore, India

Category: Community

As a self-made successful businesswoman, Uma Reddy has also dedicated her own time and resources to ensuring that other women in her community and beyond are trained and have opportunities for self empowerment. A highly accomplished entrepreneur heading her own electronics firm, Hitech Magnetics, she is also the leader of several engineering and electronic industry associations, including Past President of AWAKE – the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka, and a Past Core Committee Member – Women Business Leaders Forum. Ms. Reddy is a highly knowledgeable and entertaining speaker on the challenges that women entrepreneurs face. She has served as AWAKE's Chairperson Training, as Chairperson of the Research & Resource Centre, and as a member of the Executive Committee for over 17 years. In addition, she has been a resource person in programs on Women Entrepreneurship development organized by the Asian Productivity Organization – APO, Tokyo in collaboration with NPC, Malaysia and Philippines. She has supported women on Income Generating Activities in India funded by NOVIB, and, as a Micro-enterprise Expert, has conceptualized and brought out the first CD ROM version of the Business Directory of Women Entrepreneurs. Ms. Reddy has presented papers in international women entrepreneurs fora organized by OECD, Paris; CIPE, USA; APO, Tokyo; CDG Johannesburg; Vietnam, Philippines and Malaysia and was the South Asia focal point for the Commonwealth Women Leaders Network established by the Commonwealth Secretariat in England.

Claudia Schmitz, Koeln, Germany

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Claudia Schmitz has been a champion of women in corporate management and is a member of the business network European Women in Management Development for nearly 20 years. She was elected International President for two terms and is now still active in the Advisory Board. Ms. Schmitz is a speaker at international conferences on a wide variety of management topics and, as an excellent international networker, she has a passion for linking women managers and leaders from different professions. As President of EWMD, she introduced a new concept of 'learning journeys' as a way to identify new opportunities for women working together on a transnational basis. Her ability to connect women around the globe is directly fostering their economic empowerment, by sharing experiences and learning practices. By taking her strategic communications background and applying it to the career development of women, she has been a true supporter of their economic advancement.

Denise Seegobin, New York, NY, USA

Category: Education

Denise Seegobin epitomizes the TIAW's World of Difference mission by showing how a young woman who received benefits from the Financial Women's Association's mentoring and scholarship programs now, in turn, gives back with an exponential impact. As a FWA high school mentee during her junior and senior years at Murry Bergtraum High School, Ms. Seegobin received one of the first FWA undergraduate scholarships. When Ms. Seegobin became eligible for FWA membership, she immediately joined the Scholarship Committee and shortly thereafter took on committee leadership. She expanded the committee's outreach to over 80 scholarship recipients, organizing reunion events and persistently reminding them of the importance of renewing their scholarships to further their educations. She established a website to enable this group to stay connected with each other and the FWA's educational and growth opportunities. Additionally, Ms. Seegobin co-chairs the FWA's Wall Street Exchange (WSE) program, providing opportunities for approximately 35 college summer interns per year to attend workshops that address business and economic skills, career development, and networking with financial leaders. Ms. Seegobin spearheaded the creation of an innovative FWA computer/financial literacy curriculum to enhance high school students' knowledge of core computer programs, including financial literacy skills, a key step to the ultimate goal of fostering economic self-sufficiency.

Monica Smiley, Cary, North Carolina, USA

Category: Entrepreneurial

As Publisher & CEO of Enterprising Women Magazine, Monica Smiley has made a career aiding the economic empowerment of women. Launched in 2000, Enterprising Women provides a voice for women entrepreneurs, bringing the views of the leaders of the women's business community together to form the editorial content of the magazine. But Enterprising Women is more than a magazine. The text and words morph into a microphone for women entrepreneurs worldwide. The photos paint the picture of life as a businesswoman. The pages transform into a forum that provides inspiration for new ideas and motivation for women to continue on their business journeys. Women entrepreneurs are grateful for the platform Ms. Smiley provides, and for the opportunity to share successes and challenges. This community started with Ms. Smiley's vision for a place where women entrepreneurs from across the US could unite. But it has now reached the four corners of the world through Ms. Smiley's active involvement in both the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women, as well as the Global Summit of Women. As Ms. Smiley's publication celebrates triumphs and provides solutions to problems experienced by women worldwide, it greatly contributes to the ability of women to earn a living.

Nancy Spence, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Public Service/Government

Nancy Spence's background, career and commitment to women and gender internationally are remarkable by any yardstick. Her accomplishments are too numerous for a short overview, but include pivotal leadership roles in CIDA as well as the Gender, Education and Health Sections of The Commonwealth Secretariat in London, UK, which, under her leadership, successfully delivered six ministerial meetings in four locations (Delhi, Geneva, Fiji and Edinburgh) to formulate and set Commonwealth policy in Gender, Health and Education for 53 countries of the Commonwealth and

formulate and set Commonwealth policy in gender, health and education for 55 countries of the Commonwealth and ultimately led to a Commonwealth Plan of Action. Her work with the Commonwealth focused on five critical program areas: (i) women in peace and conflict resolution; (ii) macro-economic policy impacts on women including trade and gender budgets; (iii) legal and constitutional reform through promotion of Women in Politics and Human Rights through CEDAW promotion; (iv) reducing gender based violence and mitigating HIVAIDS through women in decision-making areas; and (v) private sector enhancement for women.

Connie Sugiyama, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

In every aspect of her illustrious career, Connie Sugiyama has been a remarkable leader, demonstrating an abiding passion for the career advancement of women. She is Senior Partner of Gowlings, Lafleur Henderson and considered one of Canada's top corporate lawyers. She is also the first woman to Chair the Board of Trustees at the world-renowned Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. In 1995, she was a Founding Director of Women in Capital Markets, an organization that supports women's advancement in Canada's largely male-dominated investment banking sector, and served as the Founding Chair of the Heather L. Mains Memorial Scholarship Fund. Informally she is co-leader of a network of accomplished women in senior roles known as "Women At The Top" (WATT), where she facilitates thought leadership, networking and mobilizing women to make constructive change. She is a formidable yet warm and inspiring leader who uses her impact to institute positive change in her many spheres of influence.

Vilija Turiene, Vilnius Lithuania

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Vilija Turiene founded the European Women in Management Development (EWMD) Chapter in Lithuania in 2002. Since then, Ms. Turiene has been tireless in enhancing the economic empowerment of women in Lithuania. She started a project in 2009 sponsored by Norwegian EEA grants, Lithuanian state funds, and EWMD with the title Gender Equality in Governance – Guarantee of Democracy. The project was designed to enhance knowledge and develop gender-sensitive understanding in strategic planning and business, to achieve balanced representation in governance, both in politics and economy. To achieve this, she has studied the best practices that have been developed in Norway, seeking ways to adopt the Norwegian experience to a Lithuanian context and disseminate the knowledge she gained. The final results of the project were presented at the international conference Women in Leadership – Facilitator of Democracy, on 28 May 2010, organized by EWMD Lithuania in the capital city Vilnius, and handed over to the state authorities and governmental institutions as recommendations, thus making an important contribution to the advancement of women in business and their critical role in democracy.

Elizabeth Vazquez, Washington, DC, USA

Category: Corporate, Non-Profit/NGO

Elizabeth A. Vazquez is the CEO and Co-Founder of WEConnect International, a new global non-profit that helps women's business enterprises develop their capacity to grow. The WEConnect International network represents over \$700 billion in annual purchasing power. As the CEO of WEConnect International, Ms. Vazquez is responsible for working with partners in the United States, Canada, Europe, India and China. She also recently organized and chaired the first two Global Strategic Forums on Supplier Diversity and Women's Economic Empowerment co-hosted by The World Bank Group. She has been a speaker and conducted numerous trainings on globalization, value chains, diversity and inclusivity, trade, technology, advocacy, and women's entrepreneurship. As the Executive Director of Quantum Leaps, a global nonprofit dedicated to the growth of women owned businesses, Ms. Vazquez received the 2009 Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) Applause Award for exceptional accomplishments that expand opportunities for women's business enterprises while furthering WBENC's mission of breaking down the barriers that impede the progress and growth of businesses owned and operated by women. As Co-Founder and President of TradeBuilders, Ms. Vazquez has worked with corporate and government leaders on Internet-based "Virtual Trade Missions" and other trade events that she organized in countries such as Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, India, Israel, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, the UK and the U.S. Ms. Vazquez is a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women's Business Centers in the U.S., and serves as an Advisor to the America-China International Foundation and their annual America-China Women Business Leaders Conference. Ms. Vazquez has a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, where she studied development economics and international negotiation as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

Sue-Sharyn Ward, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Category: Non-profit/NGO

Whenever a businesswoman needs networking advice in Dubai, she turns to the foremost expert (and the one with the most giving heart) Sue-Sharyn Ward. Ms. Ward is not afraid to be a trailblazer, moving to the UAE in the late 1970s and working in a male dominated industry. When she arrived, Dubai was nothing but a desert but apparently she liked the heat because she stayed. As an independent consultant, she specializes in training and productivity solutions for start-up and development operations. In 1983, she envisioned and helped establish the International Business Women's Group (IBWG) in Dubai and has been instrumental in leading and guiding the association for 27 years. IBWG has become the premier businesswomen's networking group in the region, open to all women, no matter their nationality, culture or belief. Ms. Ward believes that all women deserve to be supported in their efforts to be recognized as a professional career woman, as well as companion, wife or mother. The organization offers several events each month, including educational workshops and informal and formal networking. IBWG also has a member director and web-based notification board for sharing.

Anne Watts, CBE, London, UK

Category: Public Service/Government, Non-Profit/NGO, Corporate

For more than 30 years Anne Watt's commitment to equal opportunities for all has never wavered. In 1980 she became one of the founders of Women in Banking and Finance (WIBF), a period where 50 percent of the workforce in the banking industry consisted of women but less than 1 percent of leadership roles were filled by women. Through WIBF, Ms. Watts worked to raise awareness of the gender balance issue and encouraged women in the industry to apply for senior management positions. One of WIBF's first tasks was to create a leaflet spelling out the business benefits of women's full participation in the banking sector. In 1988, she became the first "Equal Opportunities Director" at Midland Bank. In her 15 years in that role, she created over 850 nurseries around England to allow parents to combine work and family. Currently, Ms. Watts is Chair of the Appointments Commission where she is driving forward initiatives to appoint more women, and other diversity candidates onto the boards of the National Health Service and other government departments.

Rosalind Wee, Quezon City, Philippines

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Rosalind Wee's list of entrepreneurial and humanitarian achievements is a huge one, reflecting her drive and enthusiasm.

The mother of six and grandmother to six more, this native of Jolo started as a schoolteacher before turning into a global entrepreneur. Eighteen years ago, that almost came to an end as surgeons at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital operated to remove a brain tumor the size of a golf ball. Although it left her legally blind, she turned to playing golf living life with gusto, and in the process winning countless awards for her contributions to her communities and the advancement of women. In addition to extensive work with improving the quality of life for women and children, Ms. Wee has also served as President of the Philippine Federation of Local Councils of Women, where women are taught at the grassroots level, to pursue micro business to help support their families. She was the Executive Vice President of the Filipino Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines and was a member of the Philippine delegation to the 49th UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. She is a winner of the 2009 Pearl S. Buck International Woman of the Year.

Julie Weeks, Empire, Michigan, USA

Category: Entrepreneurial

To say that Julie Weeks is the 'go to' person and authority on research and support for women entrepreneurs worldwide is a vast understatement! Ms. Weeks is one of the world's leading experts in the field of women's entrepreneurship, with nearly 30 years' experience in both the private and public sectors in the areas of research, public policy and program management. She is the CEO at Womenable, a consultancy enabling women's entrepreneurship worldwide, and producer of the e-publication Womenable which links women to the most important issues, policies and events in the world of women entrepreneurs. It can be said that Ms. Weeks has been personally responsible for much of the extant

information on the state of women business owners and their enterprises in the United States. She served three years as Executive Director of the US National Women's Business Council, and as an advisor to the President, U.S. Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration on women's entrepreneurship issues. Ms. Weeks spent nine years as the Director of Research and Managing Director of the Center for Women's Business Research. Currently, she serves as the Vice President for the Women's Entrepreneurship Committee of the International Council for Small Business, is a regional commissioner for Les Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales, serves on the national board of the National Association of Women Business Owners, co-chairs the Public Policy Council of the Association of Women's Business Centers, and is on the advisory board of Enterprising Women magazine.

Margaret Weir, Washington, DC, USA

Category: Public Service/Government

Margaret Weir has truly made a difference in the lives of the many women she has mentored, trained and championed through Executive Women in Government (EWG), as a President, current Board and lifetime member. Ms. Weir is Executive Director, Global Business Development with US Postal Service, a TIAW advocate, a professor and leader in several organizations. She is noted worldwide for investing in women professionals and students. As a mentor, she shares her talents and networks to benefit others. For over 30 years, she has helped numerous women succeed and achieve their dreams. As EWG President, she established a Corporate Advisory Board of private-sector companies that supports and preserves EWG's mission to advance women, and thus improve their economic status. Another significant ground-breaking effort, is the Mentorship Program she launched by customizing various disparate efforts. It allows members to assist each other with career-change decisions, professional development, and life transitions. The mission is to encourage growth through a series of quality guided discussions and networking opportunities. She is also an adjunct professor for Syracuse University where she shapes the minds of students globally.

Karolee Wolcott, Cavendish, Australia

Category: Community

Karolee Wolcott has worked as a sheep and wool farm manager/owner for over 16 years and is highly knowledgeable about farm management and rural issues. She is a strong advocate on behalf of rural women, and is an active member and supporter of multiple rural women's organizations. She has frequently served as a delegate representing rural women and rural issues to both government and multilateral organizations. Ms. Wolcott has been an active participant, speaker and advocate at the Women Leaders Network of APEC since 1999, travelling at her own expense to ensure that the voices and issues of rural women are represented in international fora. Ms. Wolcott has vast experience in the harsh environment of the outback of Australia where often the isolation and erratic and extreme weather conditions take a particularly severe toll on women. She has been a quiet, strong and serene supporter for women, their work and the emotional challenges that they often face. Besides participating in WLN events, Ms. Wolcott has been a delegate and speaker to international events for rural women, participated in trade missions promoting the wool industry of Australia and women in agriculture. For seven years, Ms. Wolcott was the Treasurer of the Isolated Children Parent's Association as well as the Bingara Pony Club which organized day camps for over 100 children and horses. Often the world of rural women, and women in agriculture, and the important role they play is overlooked, as well as the unique challenges that they face, especially in a country such as Australia where distances are so vast and the isolation can be severe. Ms. Wolcott has been a pillar of support to other women, to her own community and family and a voice of sincere reason to ensure that they are not overlooked. Since retiring from their own farm, Ms. Wolcott and her husband now volunteer their summer time to restore remote and historic Australian homesteads.

Betty Wood, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Community

Betty Woods is WEConnect Canada's primary contact for women business owners, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the team as an experienced commercial banker, trainer and award-winning global expert in the women's market. Ms. Woods is the founder of W Consulting Group, and has consulted extensively for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Gender Entrepreneurship Market (GEM) and the World Bank Group based in Washington, D.C. Much of her work has entailed advisory services and training for commercial banks in developing countries. Well known in the women's market both nationally and globally, Ms. Woods is a founder and Head of Finance, Governance and Operations, for the Global Banking Alliance for Women (www.gbaforwomen.org). As former National Director of Women Entrepreneurs Market for RBC Royal Bank, her strategic skills led market share growth and customer satisfaction improvement to new heights. Ms. Woods shares her expertise widely by speaking at domestic and international forums.

Ruth Woods, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Category: Non-Profit/NGO

Throughout her career, Ruth Woods has combined achievement with advocacy for greater diversity and the advancement of women. She serves as a role model for many in the professional services field as Chief Operating Officer of one of Canada's leading law firms, Osler Hoskin and Harcourt. Ms. Woods spent almost 20 years prior to that at Scotia Capital where she was Senior Vice President and Global Head of Human Resources. During her tenure at the bank, she was a strong supporter for diversity within the bank and advocated for attracting, retaining and advancing talented women within Scotia and the Capital Markets community. Ms. Woods was a Founding Director of Women in Capital Markets and has retained her commitment to the organization ever since, supporting the organization as a sponsor, speaker, mentor, advisor and member of the Jury for the WCM Award for Leadership.

