

TIAW World of Difference Award Winners 2011

HELLEN ACHAM KETTY ELUNGAT – *Kampala, Uganda* CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



Hellen Acham left national public service in 1998 knowing she would turn to entrepreneurship and started an agro-forestry business in Lira, her hometown in the then war stricken northern Uganda. She advanced and started the North East Chili Producers Association (NECPA), which coordinates groups of thirty Women Associations of chili producers across Northern Uganda; she has helped these women to process and market their crops for export. She has trained more than three hundred women in entrepreneurship skills, marketing and other areas.

Along with conducting her business and trainings, Hellen is also a mentor, counselor and peace builder. NECPA employs three full-time professional psychiatrists who provide psychosocial services to women as a result of the war. As part of the company's economic cooperation program, she organizes exchange visits between farmers from the Acholi sub region and Langi, areas which have had a history of violence between them. She has mobilized and empowered thousands of households, for as Hellen states, "their success is my success." Their new income allows them to construct permanent structures for themselves, pay their children's school fees and generally raise their standard of living. The Private Sector Foundation of Uganda recently named NECPA its winner for the Northern Region.

KAMAL AHMAD – *Cambridge, MA., USA* CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Growing up as a teenager in Bangladesh, Kamal Ahmad, son of a university biochemist and writer, lived on a campus where children worked as servants and couldn't read. Ahmad organized classes for them in garages. At age 14 he founded a series of internationally-funded alternative schools for underprivileged children. As a freshman at Harvard College, he also founded and ran the Overseas Development Network - dedicated to engagement in and promotion of grassroots international development.

After quitting his job as an attorney, Ahmad founded the Asian University for Women ("AUW"), based in Bangladesh, the University is dedicated to the education and leadership development of women. Opened in 2008, its nearly 450 students come from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, with the majority on them on full scholarship.

AUW prepares young women of high ability and potential to meet society's challenges and effect positive change through an innovative rigorous curriculum that encompasses the liberal arts, sciences, and professional training, and develops thoughtful and ethical leaders.

The goal is a university of 3,000 students, half on scholarship and half fee-paying, whose graduates transcend national and religious boundaries to tackle the region's problems.

"This can be a force against fundamentalism and many of the sort of narrow identities that seem to be at the root of many social ills," said Ahmad, "Women's education is the most effective way to bring about social and economic change."

MARY AITKEN – Toronto, ON, Canada
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Despite an accomplished and successful career as an investment analyst and entrepreneur, Mary Aitken remained troubled by the challenges she faced as a woman in a largely male business environment. She had few female peers and limited access to informal networking and mentoring opportunities that business men are able to leverage. She was angry at the dismally small number of women in senior managements in Canada's top business echelons.

To level the playing field in Canada's financial capital, in 2004 Mary Aitken founded Verity, a Toronto membership-based, women's organization where women can form the informal networks that lead to business development and exchange information in a supportive environment. It's also a time-saving proposition where a number of needs – business, fitness, social, intellectual – can all be met in one location.

Verity's mission, programs and environment reflect Mary's priority to promote the business and career interests of women with business networking, a MasterMIND program to provide women with an informal business advisory boards, meeting rooms in all sizes and a directory that members are encouraged to use to connect with each other on a business level. For its members, it's also a power base where they do business with male colleagues and clients on home turf.

Creating Verity was a gutsy move that involved huge risks; no existing models, a demographic loathe to spend money on themselves, a significant capital investment for a 52,000 sq ft. facility, all accomplished in turbulent economic times. It required years of unwavering commitment, relentless marketing, networking, innovation, determination and sheer guts resulting in a world-class facility for businesswomen. In creating Verity, Mary Aitken has provided an inspiring example of how to create a woman-led, women-centred, world-class business against all odds.

JOYCE AKUMAA DONGOTEY-PADI – Accra, Ghana

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



Joyce Akumaa Dongotey-Padi (known in public life as Akumaa Mama Zimbi) is a Ghanaian women’s rights leader, TV and radio broadcast journalist, actress and marriage counselor, committed to enhancing the status of underprivileged women in Ghana. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Mama Zimbi Foundation (MZF) and the CEO of Zimbid Concepts, a media production house with targeted focus on the propagation of women’s human rights issues using the power of radio, TV, print media and educational concepts to improve the lives of women in Ghana.

What is WANE?

Launched in 2007 by the Mama Zimbi Foundation (MZF), the Widows Alliance Network (WANE) project aims at emancipating Ghanaian widows from the social, cultural and economic deprivation brought about by the prejudices they face because of their status. Through WANE, over 300 widow groupings have been formed in Ghana with membership swelling to over 6,000 nationwide.

The project was introduced to equip widows in Ghana with the prerequisite employable skills, human rights education, reproductive health and social integration programs to create a paradigm shift in how Ghana’s communities perceive and treat widows. WANE is implemented through four complementary approaches: training workshops for widows in employable skills such as dressmaking, beekeeping or small-scale farming; an annual national Widows Alliance Conference for advocacy and cohesion; business financing schemes called NNOBOA (literally meaning “group rotational finance aid packages”) to help widows generate income to support their children; and education and rights protection project.

AFNAN AL SHUAIBY – Saudi Arabia

CATEGORY: GOVERNMENT



Since her appointment as Secretary-General and Chief Executive of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in London in 2007 and reappointment in 2010, Dr. Afnan Al Shuaiby has excelled in her efforts to promote trade between Britain and the Arab world with a major involvement in leading and participating in trade missions to the Arab States.

Previously, she served as Advisor to the President of the US Saudi Arabian Business Council in Washington DC. Her past career has also included running a small business, as well as holding appointments as Director (Government Affairs and Business Development) at Qorvis Communications and working as Assistant Advisor to the Abu Dhabi Investment Agency (ADIA) in Washington as well as in education in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Al Shuaiby is a Board Member of The Arab International Women's Forum, sits on the Executive Planning Committee in the UK and is recognized at their events and in other key forums as a role model of an Arab woman who has succeeded in a male dominated arena. She motivates and assists other women, mainly Arab, to become international traders and entrepreneurs.

Her latest achievement is receiving the much valued award of Diplomat of the Year for the Middle East 2011 recognizing her leadership, vision and outstanding foreign diplomatic work in London as the first Saudi and the first woman to be appointed to such a senior position and how the Arab British Chamber of Commerce has become the key body for promotion of Arab – British Trade since she took office.

CANDIDE BAMEZON-LEGUEDE – TOGO
CATEGORY : CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Mrs Candide Leguede, a graduate in Corporate Management and Business Law, started working in 1977 in the Family Planning Association of TOGO as Chief of the IEC Department (Information, Education and Communication). Since then, all her efforts have been directed toward sensitizing women and men to use family planning devices for the welfare of their families. She established many women cooperatives throughout the country and trained women in home economics and functional literacy on an Integrated Population and Development Program for women. She served in various international organizations; as Program Officer for Pathfinder International, Office Manager for Futures Group International and Program administrator on a USAID funded research program in Dakar, Senegal.

In 1999, she founded her own Company ARCANDIA and ECO-INVEST S.A in 2010, a company involved in Brokerage, Intermediation and International Trade.

In 2001 she co-founded the National Association of Women Business Owners of Togo. (Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprise du Togo (AFCET)). She served as President of this association from 2006 to 2010. During her presidency, she organized a number of leadership training seminars for the members to help them improve their management techniques. On a number of occasions she was a speaker at international business and women forums. She made presentations on "Challenges facing Women Entrepreneurs in Africa" in Bamako, Mali, during the World Business Forum (2006), "Women and Resources" in Addis Ababa during a Forum organized by UNECA on Mainstreaming gender into commercial policies in Africa (2008) " Women Entrepreneurship Development" in Kuala Lumpur (2007) and Cairo (2009) during the Islamic Business Women Forum.

Mrs. Leguede sits on the Standing Committee for Business, Trade and Technology of BPW International (Business and Professional Women Organization). Since 2009 she has been the President of BPW LOME.

Under the auspices of ECOWAS Commission, she became the Founder President of the ECOWAS Federation of Business Women and Entrepreneurs

(ECOWAS/FEBWE) in 2009, a regional umbrella federation with the aim to create a platform for dialogue and action with a view to promoting entrepreneurship among women in West Africa, thus making it possible for them to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and those of NEPAD, particularly regional integration of West Africa through formulation of a support and advocacy policy to :

- Upgrade the skills and capacity of business women and entrepreneurs,
- Promote a favorable business environment for business women within ECOWAS.

In order to achieve this goal, Mrs Candide Leguede started outreaching each ECOWAS member state to ensure coverage of all countries at national level. To date, seven (7) federations have been set up in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo. More are to be set up shortly.

She organized A Regional Forum in 2010 in Benin on the "Role of Women Entrepreneurs in the Regional Economy", a training and Information workshop on "Trade and Integration in West Africa" in collaboration with Enda Tiers Monde in November 2010 in Lomé, Togo and a Forum on "Women Entrepreneurs and the Free Movement of People and Goods" in February 2011, in order to find solutions to eradicate the harassment of women entrepreneurs on the frontiers.

Candide is a strong advocate of free movement of people and heads the Unit in charge of controlling and following up on the free Movement of people and Goods in the ECOWAS region.

She received the honorific distinction of "**HALO D'OR**" by JUNA, in 2008, The "**Women Entrepreneurship OSCAR**" in Cotonou, Benin in 2009 in recognition of the qualities of leadership among african women entrepreneurs.

She has been selected Leader in Women Entrepreneurship in Togo by the American Embassy to participate in Secretary of State Hilary Clinton's Program for African Women Entrepreneurs in Washington DC in 2010 (AWEP – African Women Entrepreneurship Program). She is now AWEP Ambassador.

Candide LEGUEDE has shown courage and determination to make a positive impact on the economic empowerment of women and make a difference. She has in the pipeline, the first African Women Entrepreneurship Summit planned for July 2011 and Women Business Development Centers for each ECOWAS member State.

UMRAN BEBA – *Istanbul, Turkey*

CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMAN)



Umrان Beba is the President for Asia Pacific Region of PepsiCo, located in Hong Kong, prior to this job; she was the President of the South East Europe Region. Between 2004-2009, she was the Business Unit General Manager for East Mediterranean region, and was the General Manager of Frito Lay in Turkey for three years ending in 2004. She had Commercial, Marketing and HR Director roles in Frito Lay Turkey between 1994 and 2001. She joined PepsiCo in 1994 following a marketing career in Colgate-Palmolive in Turkey. She had more than six years in CP Turkey in various

marketing roles. She holds an MBA (1988) and BSc (1986) degree in industrial engineering from Boğaziçi University, Turkey. She has been leading female talent development efforts in Turkey and SAMEA region over the last five years where there has been serious achievement. She was ranked number six among the most influential business women in Turkey by Capital Economy Magazine, and number three in the global Turkish leaders list.

ANNA BELOVA – *Moscow, Russia*

CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMAN)



Anna Belova is a distinguished leader who serves as a role-model for the emerging generation of women business leaders. She has been holding top management positions in huge Russian and multi-national companies for many years. In early 2000s she was invited to serve the Government of the Russian Federation (RF) being appointed Deputy Minister for Railways of RF, and the first woman in such a top position within the 150 year history of this largest state-run monopoly. At present, she also serves on Boards of many private and state-owned companies. She has been ranked among the 50

most powerful women in Russia for many years.

Anna is also a founding member and the President (being re-elected three times) of one of the most reputable organizations of Russian women business leaders called the Committee of 20. The mission of the organization is to help Russian businesswomen increase their success and be recognized as an influential power in the economic development of the country.

Anna has always been an outstanding spokesperson and advocate for economic empowerment for women. She dedicates much of her time to programs such as mentoring for growing women entrepreneurs and corporate women; School of Leadership for University students and Business schools; surveys on women career development issues and many other programs aimed at increasing women's leadership potential and professional sustainability. For outstanding achievements both in business and in volunteer NGO activities, she won the Award of National recognition, "Olympia" and many other awards.

MAGGIE BERRY – London, United Kingdom
CATEGORY: CORPORATE INDIVIDUAL WOMEN



Maggie is the Managing Director of womenintechology.co.uk, an organization committed to increasing the number of women who are working and achieving in the UK's technology profession. Maggie launched the website in March 2005 and it has subsequently developed into a high profile job board and networking forum organizations can use to attract more female IT talent.

Over the last six years, Maggie has built up an active network of 7,000 female technology professionals and she regularly organizes networking events that she believes play a vital part in attracting (and retaining) women in the IT profession.

These events range from formal debates with guest speakers and interactive audience discussion to informal drinks evenings where people can get together in a non-work environment. Through her hard work in generating corporate sponsorship for the organization, these events are often free or very low cost for the women to attend and over 1,000 people attended Women in Technology's events, training courses or drop-in drinks during 2010.

One of Maggie's main strengths is her networking ability and her keen interest in connecting individuals and helping them to achieve success in their careers – whatever success means to them. As well as running Women in Technology, Maggie sits on the BCSWomen committee and is on the steering committee for e-skills UK's Girls in IT campaign. She regularly speaks at networking events and in July 2010 she was included in Management Today's '35 Under 35' list.

LYNDA BOWLES – Toronto, ON, Canada
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Lynda Bowles has worked tirelessly over her career to promote and mentor women in her firm, her industry and within her client base. As a partner in Deloitte Canada, she champions women's initiatives within her firm geared to increase the retention of talented women within her profession. Lynda leads The Deloitte Spring Breakfast – in which Canada's best meet once a year to learn from each other and share their experiences. In addition, Lynda speaks to school, community and business groups imparting her story and the lessons she has learned. She has been recognized in Canada with the

Women of Distinction award. Lynda is the "go to" person for networking assistance. Many connections and business deals have been made thru Lynda's support and introductions. She mentors and supports many individuals. She has also been awarded many accounting designations and is actively involved in trying to influence policy at the governance level .

GERALDINE BOWN – Co. Galway, Ireland
CATEGORY: EDUCATION/ENTREPRENEURIAL



Geraldine served as the President of the European Women's Management Development (EWMD). She was considered by the members as brilliant in managing the diversity of more than 30 women from nearly 25 nations as the board. She inspired all, that there is a feminine way of leadership and she was the best example to do it. All her business life she was a coach and trainer to women in business.

Now she is an entrepreneur again: she has started to work online from her new home in Ireland. She produces videos and has set up online courses for women to develop. She is charismatic and full of humor....an excellent mentor.

JOAN BRADLEY WAGES – Alexandria, VA, USA
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Joan Bradley Wages, is a founding member of the National Women's History Museum.

For over a decade Ms. Wages has been working to obtain a building site for a Women's History Museum. A location across from the Holocaust Museum has been identified, the money secured for purchase, and Ms. Wages is lobbying congress to get legislation passed so it can be purchased. Previously, Ms. Wages worked to raise the money and pass legislation to move the Suffrage Statue depicting founders of the U.S. suffrage movement from the U.S. Capitol Crypt upstairs into the Rotunda where it now stands.

Ms. Wages speaks to groups about this effort and stresses how little we know about the remarkable role women have played in our history. Without this knowledge our girls are ignorant of the many role models that could give them the courage to pursue their desired dreams.

She has a B.A. in Mathematics from Auburn Univeristy and a MBA degree in Philosophy from Columbia Pacific.

JACKIE BRIERTON – *Ardler, United Kingdom*

CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



Jackie has a long history acting as a champion for women's enterprises and young entrepreneurs in the United Kingdom (U.K.) Her advocacy and work has been so outstanding that she was recognized by H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II when she was awarded an MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire). Until recently, Jackie worked in the public sector as an advisor on women's enterprise policy to the Department of Trade and Industry and as the Policy Director of Prowess, a U.K.-wide advocacy network that supports the growth of women's business ownership through the development of an effective women-friendly business support infrastructure and enterprise culture. Jackie was a leader in raising awareness, providing capacity building support to organizations which provide enterprise support services and by lobbying and advocacy at national, regional, European and local levels. After leaving Prowess, Jackie continued her advocacy and support for women in business as Director of the Women's Enterprise Centre for Expertise and YPECOE (Young People's Enterprise Centre of Expertise.) She currently acts as a private consultant in the area of women's enterprise and social enterprises where she continues to support the development of women's enterprises in Scotland. It is with the advocacy and support of women like Jackie, that other women are able to move ahead.

JANET BURN - *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*

CATEGORY: PUBLICSERVICE / GOVERNMENT



While Janet Burn spent the bulk of her career in the public sector, she chose to pursue her passion and use her knowledge, experience and position as a champion for women's rights in Canada, Asia and throughout the Commonwealth to improve the lives and conditions of women. In Canada, Janet's work in public policy complemented and supported work undertaken by the private sector and civil society. In order to affect change, the three sectors need to work together and Janet saw that opportunity early on and worked to build bridges that brought the three sectors together to improve the lives of women. As a senior policy advisor at Status of Women, Janet was an active supporter of the Women Leaders Network (WLN) of APEC and provided much needed funding for initial research required to support WLN. That research formed part of the educational materials that WLN provided in its early years. In addition, Janet ensured that funding was provided for the ground breaking government research on women exporters in Canada which helped women in business in Canada obtain recognition for their economic contribution. In her position within the government, she was responsible for ensuring that other government departments were aware of issues important for and about women. In short, she was a strong voice inside the government to advocate for women outside the government or women who could not speak for themselves.

Janet was active in many other phases of international women's rights; she assisted in the development of the first APEC Ministers Meeting on Women, co-

developed the APEC Framework for the Integration of Women, developed an award winning communications program for the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Meeting in Ottawa, and assisted in the establishment of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women.

Janet has combined her passion and interests with a career that helped improve the lives of thousands of women in the world.

TERI CAVANAGH – Pocasset, MA, USA

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



Teri Cavanagh is the Executive Director, Global Banking Alliance for Women and one of the original founders. In the last five years, she has created models in developing and developed countries for propelling women's business growth through access to capital and resources. She has advised leaders across the public and private sectors on how to understand, assess, market to, and profit from women's businesses.

As Director of the award-winning 'Women Entrepreneurs Connection' at Fleet Bank, she developed and implemented a long-term strategy for incorporating product development, services and programs to meet the specific credit and financial services needs of women owned businesses in the Northeast USA. As a result of Teri's leadership and passion, the 'Connection' was named a "Best Practice" for access to capital for women by The Milken Institute and the National Women Business Council. The Small Business Administration named Teri, '*National Women-in-Business Advocate*'.

Since 2007 she has been an Executive in Residence at the Center for Women Leadership at Babson College, a leading global educator in entrepreneurship. Teri was named a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy at University of Massachusetts in 2005. There she served as senior strategist for its Women's Business Initiative.

She has served on the Board of Directors for Ms. Magazine, the Center for Women & Enterprise, and the Center for Women's Business Research. A cum laude graduate of Harvard she is a member of the Women's Leadership Board at the J.F. Kennedy School of Government.

VANESSA CLAIRE VALLELY – *Rayleigh, Essex, United Kingdom*

CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Vanessa left school at 16 due to the fact her mother was a single parent on a low income. Rising from both a socially and economically challenged background, Vanessa is currently Chief Operating Officer within Barclays Bank. Despite her seniority she is a tireless supporter for the economic empowerment of women - both in the corporate sphere and in the entrepreneurial sphere. In December 2010 she was also recognized as a Financial News Top 100 Rising Star (under 40) across EMEA and Africa. She has also been shortlisted for the Women of Achievement Awards by the Women in Banking

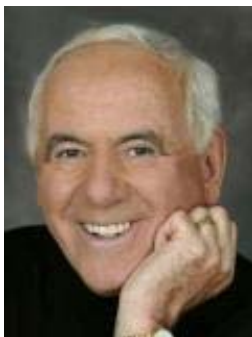
and Finance in London.

Vanessa founded and self funded www.wearethecity.com alongside her husband in April 2008. This free website was set up for the benefit of the 70,000 women who work in the City and Canary Wharf with an aim of providing city and female-centric information to professional workers. Over the past three years Vanessa has worked to build the website, network with others, share contacts and organize free events for women working in the City. The organization has now grown to approximately 4,000 female members. Vanessa constantly promotes the work of others; she often uses wearethecity to promote both individuals through profiling or the activities of many of the other Women's professional networks across the City. Vanessa devotes 50% of web space to those who cannot afford advertising fees such as Charities and young female entrepreneurs. A percentage derived from revenue opportunities is donated to charities such as Refuge, NSPCC, Training for Life, or Little Havens Children's Hospice.

Vanessa is a central pin within the City, there are very few people either in Banking or Finance or within the women's sector that do not know of Vanessa and wouldn't commend the hard work she puts in and passion she exudes.

CHARLIE COFFEY - *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Charlie Coffey is a legend in the world of women's empowerment in general and not just economic empowerment. He has been a leader and champion for women and their empowerment throughout his long and impressive career. During Charlie's 44 year career at the Royal Bank of Canada, he held many positions but through them all he was committed to leadership and reaching out to all people in all walks of life. As a banker, Charlie was the first prominent banker to recognize the economic power and impact of women entrepreneurs. As such he became the

champion for women in business not just in Canada but internationally. Not only did Charlie actively speak out for women entrepreneurs, he campaigned for them, supported them, created programs to support them and heavily sponsored activities which assisted women to achieve their goals. He helped women level the playing field, created gender sensitization policies within the bank and actively

nominated women for public and private appointments.

Charlie always had and still has an open door policy for anyone to contact him directly. He would even give his personal mobile phone number out on national radio programs. Under Charlie's stewardship, the Royal Bank of Canada was a leader sponsor in the first documentaries about Canadian women entrepreneurs, the first all women's trade mission to the US and the Canada USA Businesswomen's Trade Mission. Charlie's outstanding leadership for women everywhere more than qualifies him as a recipient of the TIAW Awards.

DEBORA CSONTOS – Newark, NJ, USA
CATEGORY: CORPORATE



Debora Csontos, PSEG's current contract manager, achieved historic Public Services Enterprise Group (PSEG) procurement expenditure results of over \$40 million with certified minority and women-owned businesses recently. Deb's contract successes with the U.S. government program for Minority Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) clearly exemplifies her commitment to supplier diversity and her strong support for our diverse business community throughout her 27 year career at PSEG.

Deb is a true leader in the area of supplier diversity and has achieved national leadership positions & recognition for her excellent competencies.

Leadership in Professional Affiliations:

2008 – 2010 Institute of Supply Management – New Jersey, Inc. - President,
Director of Communications – Institute of Supply Management (ISM)-New Jersey
Director of Professional Development – ISM-NJ
ISM NY/NJ Forum – Secretary/Treasurer
ISM National – member of leadership training committee.
South Bound Brook Community Recreation Committee

Deb has won the following awards:

2010 – ISM National Person of the Year for Creativity and Innovation.
2010 – New Jersey Women in Business Organization– Salute to Women Leaders Award
2008 – ISM Regional Person of the Year – Creativity and Innovation
1998 – ISM Regional Person of the Year – Professional Development

LYNNE CUTLER – Philadelphia, PA, USA

CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



Lynne Cutler is Founder and President of the Women's Opportunities Resource Center (WORC), a nationally recognized Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization with 13 years experience in helping low-income women and their families become socially and economically self-sufficient.

Ms. Cutler also founded the Women's Association for Women's Alternatives, Inc. (W.A.W.A.) which she directed from the organization's inception in 1976 until December 1993, when WORC became an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3)

organization to better focus on its intended beneficiaries. During Cutler's leadership, W.A.W.A. grew from a single to a multi-service agency providing residential, career and business services.

Ms. Cutler's community involvement has included: chairing the Philadelphia Women's Network; co-chairing the United Way of Southeast Delaware County Health Allocation Committee; board member of Tenet City Avenue Hospital; member of the Mayor's Private Sector Task Force and appointment to Governor Ridge's Self-Employment Opportunities Team of the Pennsylvania Job Creation Task Force. She was recently appointed co-chair of the Building Assets Committee of the Governor's Task Force for Working Families. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Business Network and Vice President of the Pennsylvania Microenterprise Coalition (PMC). Lynne is an active member of WIL of Greater Philadelphia.

ZOE DEAN-SMITH – Mbabane, Swaziland

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



In January 2006, Zoe was the Managing Director of Gone Rural a producer of beautiful handcrafted homeware products, working with over 700 women handcrafters in Swaziland,. During Zoe's time at the company (six years) sales increased by more than 300%, the retail customer base grew from 207 customers in eight countries to 940 retail customers in 32 countries.

In 2007, she launched the Gone Rural BoMake non-profit organisation facilitating programs such as: food security, HIV/AIDS support, women's rights education & literacy and youth entrepreneurship. Bomake has now flourished and is impacting the lives of hundreds of women and orphan school children in Swaziland.

In March 2009, Zoë joined Vital Voices Global Partnership as the Senior Director of their Global Women Entrepreneurs in Handcrafts Leadership & Business Development Program. As the leader of this program Zoe was instrumental in developing the content and executing the training programs globally.

The key objectives of the Program are to :

- Improve the economic status of women entrepreneurs and their employees/community

- Develop these leaders into better business women
- Strengthen their leadership skills

Just one workshop alone held in September 2009 with 19 women entrepreneurs from seven countries in Africa had the following results within the first 12 months :

- Increased employee income by 73%
- Increased annual sales by 60%
- Yielded a 12 month dollar-for-dollar ROI of 177% in Sales Growth

Zoe is a remarkable women with a passion for championing women's economic empowerment throughout the globe and getting remarkable results.

BINETA DIOP – Geneva, Switzerland

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO

Ms. Bineta Diop of Senegal is the Founder and the Executive Director of Femmes AfricaSolidarité (FAS). An inspiring NGO leader, she has worked on numerous peace-building programs and human rights initiatives. These have included one resulting in the creation of the Mano River Women's Peace Network which was awarded the 2003 UN General Assembly Human Rights Prize.

Ms. Diop has: conducted teams observing elections in post-conflict areas; facilitated women peace talks (Burundi and Congolese negotiations); been instrumental in achieving gender parity within the African Union Commission in 2003, culminating in the election of five women Commissioners out of ten; the adoption of the Maputo Protocol and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

Ms. Diop roles are: Vice-President of the African Union Women's Committee and of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO); nominated Board member, the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue; Member of the Council of Humanitarian Assistance of the World Economic Forum. Since March 2010, she has co-chaired (with Mary Robinson), the Civil Society Advisory Group on UNSC Resolution 1325.

Her work in peace and human rights recognition engenders economic opportunities and empowerment for women giving them the chance of a livelihood in employment and entrepreneurship. Bineta Diop, a Board Member of the Arab International Women's Forum since 2003 cooperates in that role in helping women to achieve as engines of economic power.

TIME named Bineta Diop, in the 2011 TIME 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

PATRICIA DOUEY – Toronto, ON, Canada
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



One should not underestimate the calm, low-key manner of television and telecom executive Patricia Douey. Beneath the unruffled exterior is a powerhouse business leader and a stalwart champion of women's business advancement. Patricia's experience ranges from senior programming and marketing roles to general management positions in the UK and Canadian television industries. During her career, she has worked with companies such as Flextech Television, Videotron Corporation and Rogers Cablesystems before taking on the rebuilding of one of Canada's leading international cultural institutions, the Banff World Television Festival and now as a management consultant. But perhaps most impressive throughout her successful career has been her unwavering commitment to the advancement of other women. In the 1980s, Patricia was the founder and for many years the leader of Canadian Women in Cable, one of the first organizations for promoting women in the communications and technology field. It was a gutsy move, not always appreciated by the overwhelmingly male leadership in the industry. As one of the few women working on teams competing for cable TV franchises in U.S. cities during her tenure with Rogers Cablesystems, Patricia was an early role model for non-traditional business pursuits and has informally mentored dozens of women and participated in formal mentoring programs, including the highly-respected mentoring program at Canadian Women in Communications. Patricia has "given back" in so many ways and volunteers as Chair of CWC's board of directors, after leading the organization's strategic planning function for two years.

LAUREL DOUGLAS – Kelowna, BC , Canada
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Laurel Douglas has become a champion for the economic empowerment of women provincially in British Columbia (BC), Canada and nationally.

Laurel has consistently demonstrated her personal value of making a difference by using her business skills to help others, and her passion for empowering women to achieve their business success. In 1995 she represented the women's community as a Founding Advisory Committee Member for the Columbia Basin Trust, and was a Steering Committee Member for Kootenay Women's Self-employment Training. She has been a Volunteer Mentor for the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs and Minerva Foundation, and a Judge for many programs including the Royal Bank of Canada Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards.

Since 2004, Laurel has been CEO of Women's Enterprise Centre (WEC); her leadership has made WEC the go-to place for women in BC who are starting, purchasing or growing their business. WEC fills gaps to provide business loans, training, mentoring programs, business advice and resources to women business

owners across the province. Laurel and WEC are also sought out internationally for expertise in women's entrepreneurship programming and training.

In 2008, Laurel was awarded the Order of Entrepreneurship for her personal and professional contributions to Small Business BC. In 2009, she was received the Silver Medal Winner as BC Economic Developer of the Year for her contributions to the province, and was as a Nominee for the Association of Women in Finance - Performance and Excellence Award.

MARIAN DUNTLEY – *Rancho Palo Verdes, CA, USA*
CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



Marian Duntley is an amazing woman who has dedicated over 25 years of continuous service empowering women economically at the local as well as at the international level.

Marian co-founded Women in International Trade, Los Angeles, (WIT-LA) in 1985, one of the nine founding chapters of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT), a global organization formed of more than 24 chapters around the world that she also co-founded with the idea of helping women break through the class ceiling and provide them the opportunity of advancement and economic empowerment.

Marian served on OWIT's advisory board for many years guiding and supporting each and every new board that would take on the task of leading our organization. The guidance and support she has provided to OWIT's chapters and her adamant concern of making chapters successful has helped OWIT grow and assisted various chapters to create sustainable foundations.

Since 1990, when OWIT held its first conference in Washington D.C., Marian has promoted OWIT and its educational conferences. She has also been instrumental in securing sponsorship for OWIT locally as well as securing corporate sponsorship for past OWIT conferences.

Marian, now retired after a distinguished career with Toyota, DHL and other major corporations, continues to support programs that support women and when called upon, continues to ensure that women have the opportunity of education, advancement and economic empowerment.

JILL EARTHY – Vancouver, BC, Canada

CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



Jill Earthy has empowered women economically as Executive Director with the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs (FWE), as owner of momcafé network, and through her strong leadership within her local business community.

FWE is a well-regarded non-profit organization offering effective mentorship and business education programs for women entrepreneurs. Eight FWE programs focus on assisting women to grow their businesses. Over 800,000 women business owners exist in Canada and the number of women-owned businesses is growing 60 percent faster than those run by men (Women's Enterprise Centre). However, average earnings for women business owners remain lower than for men. At FWE, Jill helps women gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to create viable and sustaining businesses. Jill has engaged successful and respected entrepreneurs, corporate executives and professional advisors (men and women) to mentor FWE's over 400 members.

Through momcafé, Jill offers a unique online and in person environment that inspires and connects professionally minded Moms so they have the resources and information to help them make good choices about life and/or career.

Jill, a strong collaborator, initiated regular meetings amongst the leaders of over 25 Women's Business associations in Vancouver starting in 2009. The group continues to meet quarterly to share ideas, collaborate on the promotion of events, and facilitate networking amongst their members. It is a strong and unique platform that allows women across Canada to support one another in business and gain access to resources, networks and opportunities that would not otherwise have been as accessible.

NEVEEN EL TAHRI – Cairo, Egypt

CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Neveen El Tahri, known internationally as a financial entrepreneur and broker, is an inspirational speaker and mentor helping women in the Arab world and internationally to become motivated in business with a focus on SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and encouraging them to take that route to economical empowerment. She has been a keynote guest speaker at many Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) events and has a close liaison with AIWF and there has been excellent feedback from members on the support and encouragement her challenging advice has provided.

Neveen is the co-chairperson and managing director of Delta Financial Investments, a family holding company focused on incubating small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs also chairs two subsidiaries, the Nuun for Fund Services and Upper Egypt Leasing.

She moved to the entrepreneurial world in 1992 after more than 12 years with Chase / CIB corporate banking and with experience also in tourism and marketing established Delta Securities in 1994, followed by ABN AMRO Delta Asset Management in 1997.

The first woman to sit on the board of the Egyptian Stock Exchange, she serves on several public and private-sector boards, including Telecom Egypt, Banque Misr, and Egyptian Railway Projects & Transport Co. She is the country representative of the Royal Bank of Scotland and is involved in numerous nonprofit associations. She has been twice named by the Financial Times as one of the leading businesswomen in the Arab world.

BOD ELTON – Vancouver, BC, Canada

CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Bob Elton is usually the only man in a group of women. Bob dedicates an extraordinary amount of his time to supporting women in leadership roles - in both formal roles, and in mentoring and coaching literally dozens of women, from top professionals to emerging leaders. As former CEO and President of BC Hydro, his time is valuable, yet he is the person whom many women call in the community to support women initiatives. He is the man invited to Women's Economic Development Roundtables, the only man on the Board of Young Women in Business, the person driving value bases leadership training as a Minerva Board Member and the guy who will show up to any Women's gala, fundraiser, or event to support those who are nominated or winning. Chances are he is mentoring them or has mentored them in the past.

He wins hearts with the amount of time that is not counted for. He takes weekends, mornings and family time to coach women on reaching their professional and entrepreneurial goals while ensuring they understand thoughtfulness, diversity and economic sustainability in leadership.

GERRI FACCHINE – Ramsey, NJ, USA

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO

Gerri Facchine has been actively involved in programming for The Financial Women's Association for over five years; for the past two years with the Wall Street Exchange Program and Financial Backpack Committee.

The Financial Backpack Program develops and delivers financial literacy programs targeted at high school students with the generous HSBC 5-year grant of \$900,000 for the program received in 2007. This outreach program teaches personal financial management skills to high school students and young adults. The committee designs and runs financial literacy seminars, providing students with practical financial knowledge.

In conjunction with this year's co-chair of the Wall Street Exchange Program, Gerri has worked vigorously to expand the number of committee members, to increase member engagement and involvement; and to increase marketing and outreach to schools and membership. To date, 46 student applications have been received this year, an increase from last year's 18 applications.

Gerri currently serves as chair of the advisory board where she partnered with the program director to increase alliances with community organizations to whose students the FWA delivers the Financial Backpack curriculum, increasing the number of students the program reaches. In addition to its original constituency of the NYC Dept of Education Virtual Enterprise students, the Financial Backpack has been delivered to ten different associations to date; with the number of students exceeding the target.

Gerri's personal commitment and devotion for the FWA programs, along with the benefits realized by the students, have made a World of Difference in women's economic empowerment.

CLAIRE FENNER AND GEORGIE HEARSON – *Dubai, United Arab Emirates*
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



These two winners for the World of Difference Awards are based in the UAE. They are co-founders of the network called Heels and Deals, and share a passion for helping others. After launching their own businesses in 2008, they realized there was a need for a networking group for women entrepreneurs within the UAE community. Membership to Heels & Deals is open to women business owners, business partners, self-employed, non-salaried consultants and those starting a business.

At Heels & Deals women business owners get connected, inspired, grow personally and professionally, support others, have fun and ultimately, do business. Claire and Georgine masterminded facilities such as discussion boards which offer quick and easy feedback while members post their needs on the wish wall. Their members also have access to a diverse group of women entrepreneurs many of whom publish articles to provide a rich pool of helpful information and insights.

In a short timeframe, Heels & Deals has grown beyond expectations. It was awarded the 'Incredibly Innovative Approach' Award at the SME Stars of Business Awards 2010 in the UAE. The first phase of global expansion kicks-off in the Autumn of 2011 with the launch of Heels & Deals Hong Kong!

Heels & Deals has been so successful, it has received an extremely wide variety of media coverage including BBC World and numerous other media outlets. Their members have provided glowing testimonials.

These two women are a force to be reckoned with!

LYDIA FERNANDES – *Brampton, ON, Canada*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Lydia Fernandes is intricately involved at the grassroots level of women's entrepreneurship helping disadvantaged women, present themselves with confidence, professionalism, and self-respect. Lydia personally changes peoples lives at all levels. She has increased the number of role models and mentors available anytime, anywhere, to Canada's women and girls through her involvement with the Hot Mommas Project. She has changed lives and careers of hundreds of women in Canada through her personal branding work which is actually a mix of best-in-class women's leadership research combined with traditional personal branding exercises.

More “Lydias” are needed in the world. Real women, involved with the community, who are driven to help other women. This is how change happens.

HEIDI FORBES ÖSTE – *Malmö, Sweden*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Heidi is being presented with her award because of her outstanding, deep and long-term commitment to mentoring and advising entrepreneurial women in the developed and developing world.

Heidi is a true social entrepreneur with a passion for connecting people globally for building and maintaining beneficial relationships. She is highly knowledgeable in her field, dedicated to developing and implementing training and capacity building programs for women entrepreneurs and emerging leaders. Heidi inspires everyone around her with her dedication and caring. She is a true supporter of other women and their business development, always ready to offer advice or give a helping hand.

Heidi has spoken at global events on numerous occasions, delivering keynotes and workshop presentations on supporting women's economic empowerment. She is an authentic person speaking with wisdom, passion and persuasiveness.

SHEILA FREEMANTLE – *Piggs Peak, Swaziland*

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Sheila established Tintsaba (meaning mountains) as a Women's Project in 1985 with the purpose to employ and empower some of the local women so they may have a better life. She started by hiring 12 women to make sisal woven baskets and sold them at a local tourist shop. By 2011, Tintsaba has trained over 900 women in rural communities building on traditional knowledge to take craft into an art form, weaving baskets and jewellery which is sold globally. With an absolute commitment to excellence in quality Tintsaba is now known as "masterweavers in sisal". They are recognized as

weaving the finest baskets in Africa and the second best baskets in the world after Panama – recognized by the world renowned Sante Fe Art/Craft Festival Committee in 2009. It is Sheila's passion to empower and holistically assist the rural women of Swaziland. She has developed holistic mobile clinics, which help teach women how to balance their lives (their personal life with their work life) and also provide related skills training like "driving lessons" and accounting programs. Sheila has committed her life to the capacity building and empowerment of Swazi women and is overjoyed when they move on from Tintsaba to begin their own business. Tintsaba is committed to the holistic wellbeing of each person in the organization and fosters the respect for the earth. Tintsaba has been a registered member of World Fair Trade Organization since 2004. In 2006, Tintsaba won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Swaziland and in 2008, Tintsaba was a runner up in Entrepreneur Africa Awards.

MARGARET GALABE – *Palmdale, CA. USA*

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



Margaret Galabe a native of Cameroon, now based in the United States of America is the Founder and Executive Director of World Women Trade Fair which provides business skills training and global market opportunities to women artisan entrepreneurs and their associations in developing countries.

Her organization has risen to becoming strategic partners with 'Tartans for Africa' and 'Project Africa'. Her Trade Fairs have been staged in numerous locations, including Africa, Italy, USA, United Kingdom, and Asia Pacific. Margaret assists in the production of unique and innovative one of a kind handcrafted gifts, home decor and fashion accessories using skills that reflect and retain their cultural heritage.

Margaret has expanded to selling a unique line of hand woven silk scarves and shawls designed and handcrafted by women artisans living in Albania, one of the smallest and poorest countries in Europe. Margaret encourages the capacity building of the women whom she believes process production skills and

techniques which date back to 1389 when Albania was conquered by the Ottomands. She has created a platform for the purchase of these rare beautiful accessories through the World Women Trade Fair therefore enabling economic opportunities to the women artisans to assist them in sustaining themselves and their families in rural villages which lack a basic infrastructure in education and health care.

A percentage of the net profit made is always donated to affiliated non-profit organizations such as the World Women Export Fund, which provides economic security for women's businesses worldwide that have out grown small micro loans but remain too small for commercial lending.

Margaret has been recognized with Awards for her work including a Special Recognition Award from Global Women Inventors and Innovators Network (GWIIN) in 2009.

LORI GREENAWALT – Philadelphia, PA, USA
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Lori Greenawalt has had a consistent focus on providing women at KPMG a path to reach their highest economic potential and externally through her extraordinary volunteer work in the community and around the world helping women reach the same.

Within KPMG she has programmatically helped female partners at KPMG gain exposure to firm leadership, allowing them to highlight accomplishments, career goals and assessment of their highest career potential opening advancement opportunities.

She created KPMG's Executive Leadership Institute for Women (nationally recognized by Working Mother) where 187 leaders have participated in the year long program. The Institute's focus on Communications, Political Savvy, Resiliency and Managing a High Performing Career reflects Lori's belief that women reach their highest potential when they focus holistically on their life. The Institute is expanding nationally. She expanded KPMG's Network of Women and supports other companies as they create programs for advancement of women.

Through her leadership in support of Heifer International WILD (Women in Livestock Development), Bread for Life - Uganda, Plates with Purpose - Pittsburgh and Dress for Success – Philadelphia, she provided economic support for low-income working women. She participated in an investor conference in Mali focusing on the economics of the harvest and export of shea butter by female cooperatives.

Lori hosts Mentoring Circles of the Forum of Executive Women, Women Corporate Directors and WIL- Empowering Women Globally where five micro lending banks for women have been created (a sixth bank has been created in Lori's honor to recognize her significant contributions to the empowerment of women).

KIMBERLY GYURAN- MILES - Las Vegas, NV, USA
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Kimberly brings 25 years of business expertise, specializing in payroll, human resources, and insurance.

For 15 years, Gyuran honed her accounting and business development skills at Paychex, Inc. After increasing revenue at three Michigan offices, she successfully launched Nevada's first Paychex Inc office, Las Vegas, in 1995.

In 2000, visionary entrepreneur Kimberly founded The Payroll Company in Las Vegas. In only ten years, she strategically grew the business into a recognized brand with multiple nationwide partnerships with 5000 clients collectively.

Kimberly serves as President of NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners), as a board member for HELP of Southern Nevada and Dress for Success and is active in multiple professional associations and community organizations. She was also recently inducted into The Women's Hall of Fame for being an Athena Award recipient

GEORGIE HEARSON AND CLAIRE FENNER – Dubai, United Arab Emirates
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



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members have provided glowing testimonials.

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ROBIN HENSLEY – *Atlanta, GA, USA*

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Robin Hensley began her quest to empower women at age 22. She founded Georgia Executive Women's Network (GEWN), a non-profit for female executives and board presidents. In 1980 Robin became the youngest of the group of female pioneers who founded TIAW. She encouraged GEWN member, Kay Leamont, to get involved with TIAW, and Kay later became President of TIAW.

Inspired by those TIAW women, she founded Atlanta Women's Alliance, an umbrella organization for 20 women's organizations and 12,000 members.

In the 70s and 80s, Robin independently built an audio/visual company and an industrial construction company with two partners, forging the way for women in non-traditional industries.

Robin recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of her company, Raising the Bar, one of the most successful executive coaching firms in the nation. She consults with 40 clients weekly, including those who fly in for her expertise.

Robin has been on the board and audit committee chair of a public company for 10+ years. She was on the board of Northside Hospital, and served on five of its other boards, for 10 years.

Robin is author of the book *Raising the Bar: Legendary Rainmakers Share Their Business Development Secrets* and has also authored five eBooks. She is Exclusive Executive Coach for Atlanta's Business to Business magazine.

Selected honors include The Atlanta Legal Aid Society Advisory Board, Leadership Atlanta alumna, Honorary Lifetime Member of the Board of the American Cancer Society in metro Atlanta and Atlanta Business Chronicle's "Top 20 Self-made Women of Atlanta".

SENATOR CELINE HERVIEUX-PAYETTE - *Ottawa, On, Canada*
CATEGORY: PUBLIC SERVICE / GOVERNMENT



When it comes to women's economic advancement, there could be few champions stronger or more dedicated than Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette of Canada. Leading by example in her own career, she has blazed a trail for many to follow. She was the first woman to hold the title of Leader of the Opposition in Senate in Canada and for more than ten years has been a driving force in the Senate Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, serving as its Deputy Chair. She also played a key role in reforming the Canadian Bank Act in 1997. She served as a member of

Parliament for five year and has been in Senate since 1995.

In 2010, she introduced a bill in the Canadian Senate that would require all publicly traded companies, banks, insurance companies and trust companies as well as federal government corporations to have 50% of their board of directors made up of women. Senator Hervieux-Payette cited the lack of progress on voluntary terms as the reason legislation is needed, with only 14% of Canadian board seats held by women as of 2009 and 40% of Canadian companies without a single woman on their boards. The bill is modelled on similar legislation enacted in the Canadian province of Quebec, in Norway and Spain.

Behind her legislative effort is years of behind the scenes work with women's organizations such as the AFFQ (Financial Women of Quebec) and Women At The Top, developing support for her initiatives and keeping the conversation about women's business leadership at the forefront by participating in panels, giving speeches and offering advice to women and organizations.

ELAINE HEYWORTH – *London, United Kingdom*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Elaine Heyworth is the Head of Risk Management for Everything Everywhere, the merger of T-Mobile and Orange in the UK. She specializes in infrastructure risk management – Health & Safety, Environmental Management, Insurance, Business Continuity Management, Crisis Management and Corporate Security.

Elaine is passionate about gender diversity and the empowerment of women, and has spearheaded numerous activities to empower women. She has been a member of the European Professional Women's Network in London for three years, responsible for the creation, design and implementation of their mentoring program. This has involved introducing senior women mentors to junior women to help define and enhance their career objectives, while managing the difficulties. The program is now in its second year, and with over 40 mentors involved has been so successful, Elaine has been asked to design a cross-European version.

As a result of Elaine's vision, several of the mentees have changed the way they

do business, or have moved into entrepreneurship. They have found themselves in more senior roles, or have excelled in other businesses. They now have the confidence to find something better, and to balance their lives more appropriately. Elaine has now created a mentoring programme for AIRMIC (Association of Insurance and Risk Managers) where she sits on the board.

Elaine is also a member of the Professional Boards Forum, which allows senior women to engage directly with Chairmen to encourage diversity at board level within the FTSE100.

AYAAN HIRSI ALI – *Washington, DC, USA*
CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO

Ayaan Hirsi Ali was born in Somalia in 1969. She was a devout Muslim but at a young age, questioned her religion's differing treatment of boys and girls. As a young girl, she was subjected to female genital mutilation. In her 20s, she fled to the Netherlands to avoid a forced marriage. She became an elected member of the Dutch parliament and campaigned to raise awareness of violence against women allegedly justified in the name of Islam. In 2004 Ayaan gained international attention following the murder of Theo van Gogh. Van Gogh had directed her film *Submission*, a film about the oppression of women under Islam. The assassin, a radical Muslim, left a death threat for her pinned to Van Gogh's chest. She has since moved to the United States and must live with round-the-clock protection as her willingness to speak out and her abandonment of the Muslim faith have made her a target by Islamic extremists.

Ayaan is the founder of the AHA Foundation, set up with a small group of supporters, in 2007 to protect the rights of women and girls in the West from oppression justified in the name of religion and culture. The AHA Foundation works to reinforce basic rights for women and girls including: the rights to security and control of their own bodies, the rights to an education, the rights to work outside the home and to control their own income, the rights to freedom of expression and association, and the rights to basic civil rights under the laws of Western democracies and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ayaan's days are filled with researching, writing and giving lectures about the plight of women here and abroad. She has both committed her life, and risked it.

BRONWEN HORTON - *London, United Kingdom, New Zealand*

CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Bronwen Horton, born in New Zealand, has spent years inspiring, motivating, mentoring and charitable causes in New Zealand and the UK. She has rapidly become a very well known personality in London, associated with women's empowerment and charities.

She is the Founder of the New Zealand Business Women's Network (www.nzwomen.co.uk) which seeks to inspire, motivate, educate and connect women from New Zealand now living in the UK. The Network has grown very rapidly in just 2 years to today's 500 members. Members are encouraged to make genuine acquaintances, connect and mentor other members. She has served on various advisory boards, committees and charitable causes including the New Zealand Society in the UK.

As a result of the devastating earthquakes that left her home town in New Zealand destroyed, Bronwen used her time wisely to use her network of skilled people to coordinate 20 events and played and starred in organizing a huge memorial service at Westminster Cathedral in London where 5000 people attended.

After organizing the huge success that was www.stepup4christchurch.com (as Project Manager for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Charity Stair Climb) which has raised over £310,000 for Christchurch Earthquake Victims, she has again entered the world of relationship banking as a Project Manager for Credit Suisse.

Bronwen continues to juggle her full time work with Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Charities and her Business Women's Network as well as mentoring three young women with their career goals.

HARRIET HUGHES – *Alexandria, VA, USA*

CATEGORY: PUBLIC/SERVICE GOVERNMENT



Harriet spent 13 years as a senior executive in the US Federal Government mentoring and training young women moving up the career ladder eventually increasing the number of women executives significantly at the Department of the Navy and other federal agencies. Her leadership inspired women and enabled them to be more empowered economically and socially with significantly increased salaries to contribute to their families' well-being and give back to their communities.

She contributed as an officer to Executive Women in Government (EWG) for many years. For example, her work as Co-Chair, Membership Committee led to a record number of members. After retirement, Harriet helped transfer management and expand the Economic Education and Research Consortium's work as a not-for-profit running a graduate level program in western Economics in Ukraine. She mentored the many women working for the

organization allowing them to be promoted to more responsible positions.

At present, most administrative department heads are women and the CFO is a woman due to her mentoring efforts. She has insisted that the graduate school admit as close to 50% women as capable women applied. She has also insisted that the research grants be given to women as well as men. She encouraged the professors to help the women about to graduate to be admitted to PhD programs in the West. She encouraged the Board to fill vacancies with qualified women. She has also contributed to TIAW's Microcredit Program and organized donor trips to launch village banks.

ANIA JAKUBOWSKI – Athens, Greece
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY/CORPORATE



Ania has contributed immensely to the empowerment of women in the Lake Geneva area. She served a term as President of OWIT Lake Geneva (Organization of Women in International Trade) from 2005 - 2011, taking it from a small chapter to an integral part of the international community. She has been an OWIT Board member since 2005 and is currently the OWIT Advisory Chair of OWIT International. Ania has been active in promoting women in and out of W.I.N. (Women's International Networking), and has worked hard to empower women in her local community.

Ania recently moved to Greece as Category Director for Coca Cola HBC, previously having lived in Geneva, Switzerland working as an Associate Director, in Marketing for Procter & Gamble. She has enjoyed a 20 year international career spanning North America, Eastern, Central and Western Europe. Her career path has included operational sales, marketing, market development roles, strategy and capability building roles. In addition to her business responsibilities she is active in corporate mentoring programs and European diversity efforts. Ania was born and raised in Canada, with roots stemming from Poland. She has lived abroad for much of her life, including having spent her formative years in India, studying Russian at Moscow State University and teaching English in the Czech Republic. Ania is active in the community and a leader in supporting the advancement of women in business. She also reaches out to mentor students entering the work force through her links to Universities.

MEG JONES – Lausanne, Switzerland
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY

Meg has worked relentlessly to empower women through trade and business. Whether helping a friend to find work in Switzerland, Australia or even in the slums of Eastern Africa, Meg fights for the economic empowerment and freedom of women. Although she works on a multi-national scale, she is also concerned about the situation of local women, having founded the OWIT Lake Geneva (Organization of Women in International Trade) network and contributed has to many women's organizations, including W.I.N. (Women's International Networking).

Meg is passionate about the economic empowerment of women, particularly

through realizing a legislative, regulatory and administrative environment that enables women to reach their full potential in export-oriented production and as entrepreneurs. As the Women and Trade Program Advisor at the International Trade Centre in Geneva, Meg is responsible for designing a multi-year multimillion dollar program in support of assisting women in developing countries derive greater economic benefit from their participation in trade. Meg has worked for the United Nations both as a representative of her native Australia and as an international civil servant at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Meg's private sector experience is in the financial markets and management consultancy, which was later followed by university appointments. She has direct experience as an entrepreneur, having established a Swiss-based consultancy firm working on trade and the social dimensions of trade. Meg's publications examine gender equality and export performance (commissioned by the United Nations) and gender in the WTO services negotiations. She sits on the board of several non-profit organizations and speaks fluent Japanese and French.

AUDREY KAHARA-KAWUKI - *Kampala, Uganda*
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Audrey brings a remarkable wealth of knowledge and wisdom to everything she does to empower women. Audrey is a professional trainer with a focus on enterprise development trainings for women. She has designed training programs, developed training materials and carried out training in different areas including Sustainable Agricultural Practices, Loan Management, Book Keeping, Entrepreneurship Development, Business Planning, Human Resource Management Export training etc.

She is also a certified trainer in Entrepreneurship Development using the internationally recognized UNCTAD model and also certified by CBI (Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries) Netherlands and a certified trainer under the International Trade Centre - ACCESS! For African Businesswomen in International trade, a model that she has transferred and trained more than 150 women in the same to help them design business and improve their standards of living, by economically empowering them.

While a lecturer at Masters and Bachelors degree levels in Makerere University Business School, she started the Entrepreneurship Centre in 1998 which focuses on MSMEs development with special attention to women.

REHMAH KASULE - Kampala, Uganda

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL/COMMUNITY/NON-PROFIT



Rehmah is a Chartered Marketer and a fast-track Entrepreneur running her own marketing agency, for over 14 years building local and international brands. She is the founder of CEDA International specializing in mentoring, leadership and social entrepreneurship. She spearheaded the designing of the National Export Strategy - Gender Dimension, which mainstreams women into the export sector. With the vision of “creating a new generation of women leaders” she empowers girls and women to become economically independent and socially responsible. She runs special income generating programs for women, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS and rural communities. She was recognized for her work in women empowerment at the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington DC in 2009. Rehmah is a role model for women and has been recognized both in her community and internationally for her leadership, innovations for community solutions and enriching of the education system. Rehmah is an internationally-known motivational speaker for woman-owned business. She is an Author of a book “From Gomba to the White House”, writes a weekly column in the local newspaper on “Be your Best” has equipped people with key skills to enable them become the best. Her program, the Rising Star Mentoring has impacted more than 275 girls in secondary schools and universities. Rehmah organized annual Mentoring Walks, which have brought together more than 625 girls and women in mentoring partnerships.

ELEANOR KEMBAZI BYARUGABA – Kampala, Uganda

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEUR



Eleanor’s primary education was long and slow because she alternated between attending school for a term, and planting and selling crops to raise her fees for the following term.

With only a primary eighth grade education, she trained to be a cook. She then opened shops specializing in hamburgers and fries, which are rare treats in Uganda. She employs more than 50 women with overall staff numbers at 70% female.

Eleanor owns one of the biggest recreational centers, in addition to catering services, a full restaurant, bar and event venue with capacity to serve up to 2,000 people.

She has trained, mentored and counseled women in different entrepreneur-related skills areas. She believes in living by example and, for that reason, she enrolled for her post primary education at age 61. Now, at the age of 66, she has completed secondary school and is enrolled in university to study social work.

Eleanor is a true entrepreneur and an inspiration.

Dr. SUNDARI KRISHNAMURTHY – *Chennai, India*

CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy has designed and taught courses that are theoretically sound, practically oriented and viable in application to the real world, in an educational career spanning over three decades in India in an all women's college – ranked in the top ten in India. These courses have been at the national and international levels.

Extending her knowledge and skills in training women in the less privileged strata of society, through adult and continuing education courses, Sundari has increased her domain of influence in the larger society, as an educator.

Sundari's knowledge and skill-based training programs to women in Self-Help-Groups (SHG'S) and Community – Based- Organizations (CBO'S) have created social empowerment, impacted on the economic empowerment of women and created effects on political empowerment as well. A trained researcher, Sundari has guided these organizations to assess the impact of programs through research studies. She has been invited to be on the Board of several of these organizations to guide them for increasing their social and economic capital.

In the past decade, Sundari has used Information Communication Technology (ICT) to deliver training to women in rural and tribal areas of India, after assisting these women to acquire technological literacy. She has received this award for her skills in pedagogy, capacity to train others, the sensitivity and magnanimity in sharing educational expertise and creating economic empowerment to socially disadvantaged women.

MIRLINDA KUSARI-PURRINI – *Gjakova, Kosovo*

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Mirlinda Kusari Purrini was in the center of the 1998-1999 Kosovo War. Everything was destroyed. The economic system deteriorated between the breakup of Yugoslavia and the arrival of NATO troops. Trained as an economist, but with no money, and very little resources outside of her ability to organize, train and educate, Mirlinda chose to represent those Kosovo women that had nothing. She knew if they couldn't create work or businesses for themselves, widows and their children would starve. As the economy started to improve, she was at the forefront of making sure that women, the majority of

whom were widows, no source of income, would be trained to make a business and be part of the new Kosovo economy. Swiss Caritas supported Mirlinda in her championing the economic needs of women to create a new world; women would be trained to be economically self-sufficient. Mirlinda created the Women's Business Association SHE-ERA which with the smallest of funding trained 1,500 women to use their talents and create their own survival businesses. Her focus was not only the inner-city women, but also the rural women, the Roma, those of different religions: all had access to her organization's business courses.

Eventually she would offer business services to 5,000 Kosova women, and create a Balkan Coalition of Women's Business Associations, which guaranteed 80% of the women trained would apply for credit. Women doing this, creating their own livelihood was unheard of at that time. Now, Mirlinda also writes the gender economic indicators for the EU.

GRACE LEE – Baltimore, MD, USA

CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



Wen “ Grace” Lee is the Executive Director of Maryland New Directions (MND), a non-profit organization in Baltimore that provides comprehensive career counseling, employment assistance, and post employment, support to people who are in life and career transitions. Since 2007, Ms. Lee has led the MND team in empowering adult women of all circumstances to become economically independent. Ms. Lee has worked to develop job-readiness training programs and assessment tools tailored to help women overcome multiple barriers to employment. After clients become employed, MND offers services to help them retain

jobs and stay focused on their goal. With her dedication, during the recession of 2008-2010, MND provided comprehensive career services to over 900 disadvantaged individuals, the majority of whom were women, facing major barriers to employment: 497 obtained employment at an average wage of \$11 per hour, with 90% of them retaining employment over a year. MND clients often make the transformation from receiving welfare checks to working and paying taxes. Since 2009, a partnership with Morgan State University has allowed MND to train approximately 2,000 welfare recipients a year, where 90% are single mothers with young children.

Ms. Lee's leadership and collaborative spirit have expended MND's programs to continually reach out and offer services to more disadvantaged women. Her leadership has led MND to earn awards such as the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organization's (MANO) Seal of Excellence award in fall 2009 and the AIM (Achievement in Management) award given by the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation.

IRENE LIBUNAO – San Fabian, Philippines

CATEGORY: PUBLIC SERVICE / GOVERNMENT



Irene Libunao is currently the municipal mayor of San Fabian, Pangasinan and President of the Pangasinan Council of Women Inc. (PCWI) San Fabian Chapter, which she organized in 2001. Starting with 50 members, PCWI now has 34 barangay chapters and more than 5,000 members.

As PCWI President, she applied her entrepreneurial spirit to set up a dress shop, a beauty parlor and a fish processing facility, which serve as PCWI livelihood training centers for women.

With the help of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), PCWI has established a

Pasalubong Center. The Pasalubong Center sells PCWI products such as bottled sardines, deboned milkfish, bottled mineral water, dried fish, vinegar and iodized salt. With these products, San Fabian won the “Best One Town, One Province (OTOP) Exhibit (1st Place)” Pangasinan Pistay Dayat Celebration and the “Most Supportive OTOP Partner Organization” at the 1st Ilocos Region OTOP Congress held in 2010.

In 2008-2009, Irene served as President of the Rotary Club of San Fabian. Her club’s projects included - free surgical operations of nine hydrocephalus children, donation of 25 new wheelchairs, regular supplemental feeding for several hundred children in various schools, care for 60 pregnant women and their new-born babies, leadership training for youth leaders, livelihood assistance to women’s groups in 34 barangays, donation of construction materials to typhoon victims, municipal-wide tree-planting and clean-up, anti-rabies vaccination, adoption of day-care centers and adoption of the center for handicapped children and other projects.

Her club received 17 rotary awards including - Best District Project, Best Club Bulletin, Outstanding Club President, Outstanding Club in Community Service, Outstanding Club in Vocational Service, Outstanding Club in Youth Service, Outstanding Club in Club Administration, Outstanding Club in International Service, among others.

Irene is a six-time Paul Harris Fellow and is a member of the Paul Harris Society composed of Rotarians who support the charity work of The Rotary Foundation every year.

ANNE LIPPERT - *Vancouver, B.C. Canada*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Anne was the first woman in British Columbia to hold a senior corporate position at RBC. She was a trailblazer for creating powerful connections and positions for professional businesswomen. Those connections directly translated into economic empowerment.

Anne retired from the Royal Bank where she was Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, British Columbia & Yukon, as well as responsible for the management of the Royal Bank Financial Group Foundation (donations) Committee. Between 1989 and 1998 Anne was VP and Area Manager, Royal Bank, Vancouver Downtown & West, responsible for 18 branches and a business volume in excess of 2.2 billion dollars.

Anne is now consulting on Corporate Social Responsibilities and Corporate Governance. She also consults on Revenue & Development Strategies in the Not-For-Profit Sector.

Anne has been well-recognized during her career. She received the 2004 Leadership Vancouver Award, the 2003 Influential Women in Business Award;

the Association of Women in Finance 1997 “Award of Excellence”; the 1990 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award (Management & the Professions); the Outstanding Achievement Award Salvation Army 1994 and 2004; and in 1998 was nominated for The Canadian Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Anne is involved in numerous fund raising activities for the arts, health and educational institutions. She is an invaluable resource to any organization in need of Leadership, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and implementation of Strategic Planning.

Her leadership, vision and passion for the economic empowerment of women in business make Anne a true pioneer for women, an extraordinary role model and admired community leader.

PAULINA LIPSKA & JENNIFER SUNG – *Vancouver, BC, Canada*
CATEGORY: YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS UNDER 25



Jen and Paulina are extraordinary young women with a powerful vision to connect young women with the skills and support to achieve success on their own terms and to become engaged members within their communities. To realize this vision, over the past three years they have built and led YWiB (Young Women in Business), a non-profit organization for emerging female leaders in Western Canada.

Today, YWiB provides personal and professional development opportunities to emerging female professionals through:

1. Regular and innovative events, including panel sessions and an annual Beyond Pink conference, to connect local business leaders with ambitious young women and foster mutually beneficial relationships.
2. Dynamic programs fostering philanthropy and entrepreneurship, providing young women with hands-on, real life experiences to expand their learning.
3. University chapters at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria to engage the next generation of future leaders. Programs and events include mentorship, internship and social enterprise.

YWiB is Vancouver's central forum to build confidence and connect ambitious young women from a variety of careers, industries, and backgrounds. Harnessing the creativity and energy of over 60 volunteers each year, Jen and Paulina strive to provide rich learning and networking opportunities for the almost 500 event and program attendees annually.

Jen and Paulina are true role models as they combine business, education, and community encouraging young women to carve their own path towards economic empowerment.

THORDIS LOA THORHALLSDOTTIR – *Reykjavik, Iceland*
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Thordis Loa Thorhallsdottir is a woman with big visions and unafraid to share successful business practices to support other business women.

Loa is the chair for the Icelandic investment group, Naskar. A group of ten powerful women from Iceland interested to learn, practice and have fun while investing into various entrepreneurial projects. The group was formed shortly before the economic crash in Iceland (autumn 2008) and was one of few groups of investors who didn't lose their entire investments during the crash.

As the chair of this group, Loa has worked tirelessly at promoting, teaching, empowering and mentoring other women to look at themselves as successful investors. This gives them the confidence to reach out and see their own opportunity to be financially more independent.

Loa is a true role-model in her field and is already making a "world of difference" to thousands of women in Iceland

JANET LONGMORE – *Ottawa, ON, Canada*
CATEGORY: NON PROFIT / NGO

Janet Longmore is an accomplished social entrepreneur who has devoted her career to helping disadvantaged women and youth believe in themselves and their potential. She walks the talk - fought for women's rights at mine sites in British Columbia and was the first female Frontier College Labourer-Teacher, driving 100-ton haulage trucks in open pit mines and leading community activism.

She is the founder of Digital Opportunity Trust and in ten short years has driven it to the forefront of social enterprise with offices in 12 countries. DOT trains young women and men to become leaders of change, entrepreneurs and livelihood coaches, in their communities. DOT harnesses the excess capacity of talented, local university and college graduates, matching this to the demand in communities throughout the developing world to use the new tools of technology to improve their lives, start new businesses, and improve family incomes. DOT has transformed the lives of over 2,500 young women and men who have, in turn, reached over 400,000 community women and youths in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas. DOT is a multimillion dollar enterprise with a workforce of over 500 people and global partnerships with government agencies and the private sector - connecting people to the benefits of technology and changing hundred of thousands of lives.

Canada is noticing her - Top 100 Canadian Woman of Power for 2010; 2010 Social Enterprise Innovation Award for Canada; 2011 CanWIT Top Woman Technology Entrepreneur in Canada.

FLORENCE LWANGA – *Kampala, Uganda*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL/COMMUNITY



On return from exile and after her husband had been executed by Idi Amin's regime, Florence Lwanga saw an opportunity rather than fear amidst chaos. With seed money from friends, Florence paid three months rent on a small shop housed in a prominent Kampala hotel and started importing products that were not in the country then, such as dental floss, toothbrushes and foreign newspapers. Within eight months, the shop was self-sufficient and profitable.

She is now one of Uganda's most prominent businesswomen employing more than 200 women. She owns a Shell petrol station, a children's clothing store and a grocery. She also owns and runs a telecommunications company and a radio station in one of the remote areas of Ssesse Islands where most of the programs are aimed at empowering the community and advocating for economic independence of women. She is a real estate developer with several residential properties and nine acres of land, a key asset in Uganda.

An activist, she has advocated for increasing women's access to finance and land ownership. Although she is among Uganda's upper class, she recognizes that Ugandan women of all classes have more in common than it may appear. She is an example of an African woman who is part traditional submissive wife, and part modern, clever, common sense businesswoman.

NATALIE MacNEIL – *Kitchener, ON, Canada*
CATEGORY: YOUNG WOMAN LEADER UNDER 25



Natalie is clearly an outstanding achiever as a young entrepreneur and young woman leader, who, at age 25 has already been active in over 50 countries and is driven to contribute to a world where women have equal opportunities to education and entrepreneurship. She is the co-founder of Y.E.C. Women, a sub-council of the highly acclaimed Young Entrepreneur Council which aims to provide support to young women entrepreneurs throughout every stage of start-up and business growth. The council is made up of the top under-30 young women in business from around the world. Natalie also has a lending team for women entrepreneurs through KIVA, a non-profit organization which connects people through lending to alleviate poverty, leveraging the internet and a world-wide network of microfinance institutions. The team has provided microcredit loans to 44 entrepreneurs in developing countries to date.

Natalie has further fostered mentorship, coaching and networking among young women around the world through her blog, "She Takes On The World", one of the top blogs in the world for women entrepreneurs. It has received international attention as one of Forbes' Ten Best Career Sites for Women; is on ForbesWoman's Top 100 Websites for Women and is the 2010 winner of Blog of the Year at the Stevie Awards for Women in Business. In 2010, Natalie herself was named Canada's Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Impact Organization, and is frequently quoted and interviewed in the media on

entrepreneurship and personal branding for women.

DORIS MAGSAYSAY HO – *Makati, Philippines*
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY

Doris Magsaysay Ho is the President and Chief Executive Officer at Magsaysay Maritime Corporation. She also serves as the President and Chairman of Magsaysay Inc., the President and Chief Executive Officer at Magsaysay Mitsui Q.S.K. Marine, Inc., and the President of Magsaysay Lines, Inc., National Marine Corporation, and National Marine Corporation Container Lines, Inc. as well as many senior positions within the maritime and shipping industry.

As such, Doris is one of the largest employers of staff and crews for shipping and cruise lines world wide. In her position and her role as one the Philippines leading businesswomen, Doris has been a leader against employment abuse and trafficking of women. She has been recognized for her business and personal philanthropy and was the first Filipina to be recognized with the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur Award in 2003. Doris is a powerhouse not just in the Philippines but in all countries that her company does business in and she uses her position and influence to speak for women in general but particularly vulnerable women and women in the work force. Doris is always approachable and eager to step up and assist women and causes that can help provide a better and safer environment for women.

SARA MANZANO-DIAZ – *Washington, DC, USA*
CATEGORY: PUBLIC SERVICE / GOVERNMENT

Ms. Manzano-Díaz has spent her career in public service advocating on behalf of working class families, women, and girls, as well as the most vulnerable. She is the 16th Director of the Women's Bureau at the United States Department of Labor (DOL). It is the only federal agency exclusively mandated to serve and promote the interests of working women. In her current position, Director Manzano-Diaz advocates on a national scale the vision to empower working women nationwide to achieve economic security.

Prior to her current position, she served as Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary of State for Regulatory Programs responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public by overseeing the licensure of approximately 1 million professionals. From 1995 to 2002, Ms. Manzano-Díaz focused on enforcing fair housing, civil rights and anti-discrimination laws for occupants of America's public housing, as Deputy General Counsel for Civil Rights and Litigation at Housing and Urban Development. Her action against the largest public housing authority in the country resulted in the creation of 9,000 disabled housing units compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. As an Assistant Attorney General in New York she conducted investigations and prosecuted allegations of consumer fraud. She also served as a Judicial Assistant and Pro Se Attorney in the New York State Judiciary.

She served as co-chair of The Forum of Executive Women's Mentoring Committee, which mentors young professional women as they begin their careers, and was an instrumental participant in Madrinás, a program that provides mentors for at-risk Latina girls to encourage them to finish high school and attend college.

THE HONOURABLE SERGIO MARCHI – *Geneva, Switzerland*
CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



The Honourable Sergio Marchi served as a Canadian federal member of Parliament between 1984 and 1999. During that time he held increasingly senior positions within the government and cabinet and finally serving as Minister of International Trade. Upon retiring from politics, Sergio continued in public service as Canada's Ambassador to the World Trade Organization. While Minister for International Trade, Sergio was a trailblazer when he championed and led the first Canadian women's trade mission to the United States, a ground breaking event which resulted in more than \$35 million in trade. This was followed up by his hosting the historic Canada/USA Businesswomen's Trade Summit which consisted of the largest ever US trade mission to Canada and during which more than 900 business matches were conducted. Sergio showed his commitment to the role that Canadian women have to play by subsequently appointing several women to high profile public appointments, chairing private/public sector dialogues with Canadian businesswomen and creating the first position within the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs specifically responsible for women in trade. As Canada's Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva, Sergio continued to be an active champion for the recognition of the role of women in trade and the economy and advocate to his fellow Ambassadors. Today, Sergio holds many position and roles in Geneva where he continues to advocate for women's economic empowerment and as such is worthy of the TIAW Award.

MARJORIE MARGOLIES – *Philadelphia, PA, USA*
CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



In every hat she wears –be it as a reporter, Congresswoman, mother of eleven children, or university professor – Marjorie Margolies is leader and pioneer, always setting the bar higher for those who will follow in her footsteps. This is evident in her current role as an NGO leader advancing the cause of gender equity. In 1998, Marjorie headed the US Delegation at the Beijing Conference where the CEDAW treaty was born. Upon her return, she founded Women's Campaign International (WCI), committing herself to the mission of advancing women's participation in politics, civil society, and business in developing nations. With her experience, Marjorie imparts tremendous knowledge and skills in leadership, advocacy, media use, political campaigning, and grassroots organizing. Very aware that financial independence is an essential precursor for the women's effective application of these skills, economic empowerment is a central component of every WCI program. For instance, trainings in Liberia included income generating skills for war affected women such as soap making and computer literacy, as well as financial literacy for female agriculturalists. In Sri Lanka, Marjorie supported Muslim Women's Shelters which assist women of all ethnic groups to be financially independent and effective entrepreneurs. In 2006, Marjorie worked with the World Bank and International

Finance Corps to implement a Gender, Entrepreneurship and Markets Program for women entrepreneurs in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ghana. Together, programs like these have directly impacted over 900 women, not to mention the thousands of others from the women's communities who benefit as well.

TEREZA MBIRE - *Kampala, Uganda*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Tereza Mbire is the founder of Uganda Women Association Limited (UWEAL), an association that pioneered and advocated for government support and recognition for the contribution of women to the economic development of Uganda. UWEAL has been in existence for the last 23 years and this year won the award of 1st runner up best association in the country beating 999 institutions. She is also one of the founding members of the Uganda Women Finance Trust that started as a women's only micro finance institution that is now at the level to graduate to a full commercial bank. 70% of the clientele of this bank are women – in a country where the greatest obstacle to business women is access to credit. Mama Mbiire like she is fondly called has mentored and grown many of the key business women that Uganda boasts of today. In the late 80s, a young mother and new widow, she stepped out into the male dominated world of business – a time when business women were not respected and were considered 'thugs'. She changed this notion and changed the future of Ugandan women. She is known for her selflessness and hard work. At the age of 77 she is still actively running her businesses and continues to go all over the country giving speaking engagements to inspire women to break out of the bondage of poverty. She has tried out any business you can imagine. She encourages women to get busy doing something and money will appear. Because of her rare qualities of integrity, hard work, love and an indomitable spirit she has earned respect and strings of awards as an entrepreneur.

JANICE MCDONALD – *Kanata, ON, Canada*
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY



Janice McDonald has been making a significant difference in the lives of women in her community for over 20 years by generously sharing her business expertise and as a tireless advocate for the career advancement of women in business and in the communications and media sectors in Canada. In 1992, she completed her Master's Thesis on Women and the Appointment Process in Canada on Agencies, Boards, Councils and Commissions and the results of her research, whereby women were significantly underrepresented in positions of power across Canada, galvanized her to commit to motivate and inspire women to upgrade their skills and improve their opportunities in order to access positions at the top. As a successful serial entrepreneur, consultant, and an informal and formal mentor with Canadian Women in Communications Mentorship program, Janice has continued to share her knowledge, wisdom and expertise with a dose of humor and a warm and inclusive approach that engages and inspires women to push themselves out of their

comfort zone and into their rightful positions of power. She is a sought after speaker on leadership and entrepreneurship and an ardent supporter of women. Janice's impact can be felt particularly through her dedication to Canadian Women in Communications (CWC) where she has used innovative programming and mentoring to ensure that women receive the training and skill development they need to take their career to the next level. Janice is on the National Board of CWC and a recipient of the prestigious Leadership Excellence Award from CWC.

HAPPINESS MCHOMVU – *Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*
CATEGORY: COMMUNITY/ENTREPRENEUR



Happiness has inspired many women to become entrepreneurs through her capacity as an experienced food-processing trainer. 96% of the participants in the food processing courses are women and interestingly, 50% of them end up starting and running successful food-processing businesses. With more than 7000 trainees to-date, it can be said that Happiness has (both directly and indirectly) contributed to the Tanzanian economy through the successful trainees. Apart from this she has touched the lives of these women as well as those of their families by providing them with a steady source of income, job creation, employment and an opportunity for creation of successful careers.

Under her leadership, 230 trainers were trained who in turn trained 8,200 entrepreneurs (98% women). 50% of them are still in business and have created job opportunities for 6,000 people in Tanzania.

UNIDO and the Commonwealth Secretariat commissioned the program to train other women/trainers in Sudan where 55 trainers were trained, in Malawi 65 were trained, and in Zimbabwe 55 were trained.

Happiness has indeed made a contribution in empowering women economically in Tanzania and other African nations.

MADELEIN MKUNU – *Cape Town, South Africa*
CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



Madelein Mkunu, Founder and President at Leading Women of Africa and CEO, Feminar International

Madelein Mkunu is from South Africa and based in Cape Town. She is a specialist in International Trade and Development. Madelein is the Founder and President of Feminar International and the Leading Women of Africa, a pan-African forum that promotes economic empowerment, new leadership and unity of women of Africa in order to achieve growth, stability and peace on the continent.

Margaret designs and holds programs that cover the multiple dimensions of women's leadership program designed to unleash the economic potential of

women in micro, small and medium enterprises (SMMEs). Taking into consideration Leadership, Good Governance, Conflicts Resolutions, Private-Public partnership with women.

She has spent 14 years in the financial administration of various South African companies such as Sun International, Western Province Cricket Club, and many more. It is her passion for African women and dream to see women empowered that have motivated her to abandon her career. A woman of action, her traces are easy to find among others in her publications in: "The contribution of women in the process of African development and unity" appeared in Diversity In Africa, the coming of age of a continent, edited by Professors Kurt April of the famous University of Cape Town / Graduate School of Business and Marylou Shockley, currently Associate Professor and chair at the School of Business, California State University – Monterey Bay – USA

"New Vision for Women of Africa in the 21st Century" appeared at Convergence Vol 6 No. 1. "The role of women in planning and design of infrastructure in Africa" Corporate Africa Magazine, June 2009. Madelein Mkunu has been a guest speaker in many International women and business conferences in Europe, Asia and Africa.

It is through her courage and determination that Dr. Amany Asfour, President of the Egyptian Business Women Association said of her: "Madeleine Mkunu is the dynamo of the new generation of African women."

SAMRAWIT MOGES – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Samrawit Moges Beyene received her first degree from the Addis Ababa University in Journalism and her diploma in Tourism Management in Italy. She was employed within the government Tour Company (National Tour Operation) 1982 – 1993. She then founded her own company - Travel Ethiopia since 1994, with 35 permanent employees, where she is a Managing Director, this is the first company in Ethiopia that has permanent female guides.

Samrawit is involved in several diverse businesses. She is the founder of Village Ethiopia in 1998, creating employment opportunities for 25 local Afars (in a place about 400Kms out of Addis Ababa), where she has a total of 37 employees. Samrawit also established Freesia Ethiopia, a flower growing business, in 2007 with a total of 100 employees, 80 % being females. She also has the Chancho Flower Plc, growing flowers and vegetables and creating employment opportunities for 44 employees, of these only seven are males. Her other company is Florensse Ethiopia, operational since 2004; it has 450 permanent employees, where 75 % are women.

Samrawit is one of the founders member of WEG group (Women Entrepreneur Group) established February 2011. She is also an active member of Ethiopian Women in Business (EWiB), a networking organization to improve the status of Women.

Samrawit serves as a Board member of the current Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce. She is member of Toast Masters Club, and an active member of Rotary Club since 1991 being the first female president in Ethiopia. During her leadership as a President in the Rotary in 2001, she was able to construct 100 houses and the house distribution was based on mainly for families lead by single mothers.

HELENA MORRISSEY – London, United Kingdom
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Helena Morrissey is Chief Executive Officer of Newton Investment Management Ltd., BNY Mellon's United Kingdom (U.K.) based global thematic investment boutique.

20 years ago, as the only female on a team with 16 male bond fund traders at Schroders Investment Management, Helena experienced something only women do. As her young family's breadwinner, she had just returned from her first maternity leave and her boss passed her over for a promotion, saying he doubted her job commitment. "I wanted to know if I'd done something wrong or I wasn't ready. The answer came back, 'Well, you've just had your first child, and we're not sure whether you can make it through.' The sense was that I was on a different path." Helena wound up proving him wrong. She quit, joined Newton Investment Management and, seven years later, became chief executive officer at age 35 when Mellon Financial Corp., now Bank of New York Mellon Corp. took over.

This experience has fueled a tireless campaign for supporting women in business. Following the 2011 U.K. government's review on Women on Boards, Helena is spearheading a cross-business initiative in the U.K. to have 30% women on company boards by 2015. She is currently signing up the Chairmen of Boards for the FTSE 100 companies to make 30% female board representation a reality.

Helena also leads 'Bowstring', the EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) women's network for BNYMellon. She recently won the Financial News' 'Most Influential Woman in Asset Management' 2010 Award. Helena truly "walks the talk" in empowering women in corporate business.

BARBARA MOWAT – Abbotsford, BC, Canada
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



For decades Barbara has empowered business women to succeed and has helped countless women throughout the world start and, build their own sustainable businesses.

Barbara was the founder and Publisher of Home Business Report, the first Canadian national newsstand magazine for micro-enterprises, with a 50,000 person readership to help HBBs network and access markets. She spear-headed the first HBB Friendly Community Awards partnering with educational institutions, corporations, government and non-

governmental bodies to increase profile for HBBs.

Recognizing the power women can experience running a successful business, Barbara created the well respected Uniquely Programs, assisting over 12,000 Canadian entrepreneurs to access markets. She is an international leader in the development of SME enterprises, with an emphasis on women. Her Uniquely training model has successfully steered thousands of micro-enterprises into sustainable business development throughout Canada, South East Asia, USA, South America, Europe, Afghanistan, India and Africa.

Barbara's achievements were acknowledged with a 2010 Governor General's Award commemorating the Persons Case which recognizes outstanding individuals who advanced equality for women and girls in Canada. She won the 1993 Canadian Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Impact on the Local Economy, and was awarded the Commemorative medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation, which recognized her significant role in the micro-based business growth phenomenon. She was also nominated for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneurship Awards in 1994 for the category of "Supporter to Entrepreneurship".

In 2010, Barbara launched GroYourBiz.com, a peer-to-peer advisory group, where entrepreneurs receive education and mentorship on business growth.

MR. JAMES MULWANA - *Kampala, Uganda*

CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Mr. James Mulwana is an industrialist and an established business man in Kampala. He is one of the unsung heroes in the furthering of women's economic empowerment in Uganda. A very humble and yet very wealthy man, he has made generous contributions towards the kickoff of business women organizations. He sits on various private sector boards and has always advocated for women representation on such forums. During the formation of East African Business Council, he campaigned for women's representation on the board and went ahead and paid their membership (not a small amount at that time) without which women would have been disqualified. He has encouraged many business women leaders to step up to the levels of leadership in the business arena and supported them. He is fondly referred to as 'God father' by many business women leaders. Mr. Mulwana has given many women the freedom of economic independence by offering them unlimited opportunities of employment in his manufacturing companies. He has demonstrated that without the support and goodwill of men leaders, women will continue to be left behind in the development process. He has been the voice of business women behind those heavy doors that women would never have entered. He is one man who whenever he has the opportunity, hails women, as the engine of economic development. A very rare personality is James Mulwana - he has appointed one of his daughters as a business partner/CEO of his companies – which goes against popular African culture.

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Yetnebersh Nigussie, lost her eyesight at the age of 5. She describes this instance as an opportunity as it helped her to escape from early marriage and instead obtain an education. Yetnebersh believes that she has one disability and the remaining 99 abilities to invest on. As she repeatedly indicates, people tend to forget the 99 abilities that a person with a disability has and capitalize on one disability which ultimately leads to charity.

At Addis Ababa University (AAU), she obtained a law degree and a Master's degree in Social Work. Involved in extracurricular activities, she chaired the AAU Anti-AIDS movement 2004-05 and founded and served as the first president of the AAU Female students association in 2006. During her service for the Anti-AIDS movement, she received a number of national and international awards one of which was the AMANITARE award which she received in 2003 in South Africa for her strong advocacy work for girls' education.

Yetnebersh served in more than ten organizations and chaired the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind Women's Wing from 2003 to 2007. Out of that exposure, she founded a local organization called Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD) to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in different development programs including economic empowerment. ECDD is working with Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) in Ethiopia to include persons with disabilities as their favored clients. She emphasizes that opportunity is an initial capital for any profitable life. As a disabled entrepreneur, she describes it is more difficult to get the opportunity which is given by the society, than getting the financial support from MFIs.

Yetnebersh is a trained facilitator for a Finish Foundation called Abilis Foundation and succeeded in facilitating funding opportunities for groups of persons with disabilities. With this program Yetnebersh and her organization ECDD have enabled more than 25 groups of disabled persons engage in different business activities and shift from being objects of charity to subjects of productivity.

In 2004 she was asked by the ILO to be trained as a master trainer on Basic Business Skills (BBS) and Business Development Services (BDS). Since then, Yetnebersh has trained more than 200 women with disabilities and provided BDS for more than 50 women with disabilities. In this process, she has succeeded to assist around 80 women with disabilities abandon begging and turn productive. She co-founded the Women Entrepreneurs Group and serves as a Vice Chair person.

Yetnebersh started the Yetnebersh Modern Academy with 23 students in 2008 and currently has more than 190 students up to Grade 4. It is an inclusive school for individuals with disabilities. At present the academy has 24 employees working full time.

Yetnebersh is an Executive Director, an entrepreneur, a disability and women's

rights advocate and last but not least a married women preparing to begin her own family. Considering all these strengths, It is more acceptable to address her as dif-abled (differently abled) other than disabled.

RUSIA ORIKIRIZA BARIHO - *Kampala, Uganda*

CATEGORY: YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS



Rusia is Uganda's rising star. She gives hope to a country daunted by a crisis of youth unemployment. She is the proud owner of ORIBAGS, a small scale company producing handmade paper bags, jewelry and crafts made from local materials like agricultural waste including wheat and rice straw, pineapple crowns, grass, waste paper and other natural fibers. As a first born teenage daughter of a peasant in rural Uganda, she almost dropped out of school because of lack of tuition when luck struck and a humanitarian family from the city took on the responsibility to educate her. Even when she moved to the city to complete her education, she worried about her siblings and other young girls who may never be as lucky as she was. She always contemplated how to break the poverty curse back home and started making ladies jewelry from waste paper she collected from office garbage around the university. She is now using her small scale company to create opportunities and change lives of young women living in difficult circumstances especially those living in absolute poverty and those families that have been adversely affected by the HIV/AIDS scourge. She offers employment opportunities, enterprise development skills and knowledge transfer. Her local community- especially the young girls and women make up her value chain- they do the marketing, supply and selling of her ORIBAGS products.

Rusia is a renowned, youth/women entrepreneurial advocate, environmentalist among many other things. She scooped the Ugandan young entrepreneur achievers' award of 2010.

PETA PAYNE – *South Croydon, Surrey, United Kingdom*

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO

Peta is the Managing Director of International Women of Excellence, which she founded in 2005. This is a not for profit organization committed to helping women in business realize their full potential. IWE is aimed at women following corporate or professional careers. It is both cross company and cross sectoral. Funding is provided by company sponsorship. The company has been consistently so funded since its inception, which is a mark of its success and the value placed on it by these companies. Peta has been active in supporting women to realize their potential for many years. Before founding IWE she chaired The European Women of Achievement Awards between 1997 and 2004. She is a director of the Arab International Women's Forum and International Vice president of the European Union of Women.

JACQUELINE PLAIR-RUSHIN – Fayetteville, Georgia, USA
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Jacqueline Plair-Rushin has been a Director on a mission for Intercontinental Hotel Group's (IHG's) Global Technology, Customer Care department since 2003. Mrs. Plair-Rushin dedicated her time, skills and passion to ensuring upward mobility for women in her department. Under her tutelage and mentorship, ten plus women have been promoted and have since moved on to even more rewarding positions inside the company. Her passion for making sure women understand the business and "Get the Job Done" attitude was key when her organization, also lead by two of the women promoted by her, won the prestigious Stevie awards: Award for International Customer Contact Center of the Year 2009, Award for Customer Service Department of the Year in Leisure and Tourism 2010, and the American Business Award Finalist 2009. Mrs. Plair-Rushin kicked off the eWIT (Women In Technology) program for IHG and pushed to partnership with Devry Institute which resulted in an IHG internship for two highly skilled and motivated young ladies changing their lives forever. Her passion for leading and encouraging women towards success does not stop at the exit of her corporate building. Mrs. Plair-Rushin also contributes to helping young girls in the community by volunteering in Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs and Girls Get IT as well as serving on the Board of Directors for Project Healthy Grandparents and Fortitude Educational, Cultural, and Development Center (FECDC) concentrating on women and girls. Currently Director of Global Distribution, Mrs. Plair-Rushin continues to be not only a "Trailblazer" but a "Trail-Creator" for women in corporate America!

MICHELLE POCKEY – Vancouver, BC, Canada
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Michelle is a trailblazer for positive change for Canadian women in business and the professions. Confronted with the double realities of the glass ceiling and the old boys' network early in her law career, Michelle recognized the need for a new, women-centered model for the empowerment of women in business. Though several women's associations existed at the time, most were industry or profession specific silos. In 1997, Michelle co-founded the Professional Women's Network (PWN), a non-profit organization dedicated to changing the status quo.

PWN is an innovative concept for the advancement of women. It provides a collaborative, supportive and inclusive environment where women are encouraged and offered tools to succeed in a traditionally male-dominated business world. PWN provides a forum for business and professional women to meet in a comfortable setting for networking, cross-promotion, education and mentoring. In 2010, members reported that a significant number of business deals were concluded and key business relationships established amongst them – a clear sign of success.

Under Michelle's leadership the PWN has become hugely successful: from its Vancouver origins of about 100 members, it has grown to about 1000 today, and now includes men supporting women in business, with chapters in Vancouver and Calgary. The need for this forum is so strong that Michelle was urged to launch three new chapters in other cities, including London, England – a significant project she is currently undertaking.

Michelle's tireless dedication to her vision of a business world where women succeed is an inspiration for us all.

WENDY PYE MBE – *Auckland, New Zealand*
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Wendy Pye is such a unique person it is hard to fit her into just one category. Wendy is the founder of Sunshine Books and the Wendy Pye Group in New Zealand. A former journalist who was struck by the correlation between illiteracy and juvenile crime, Wendy started her own publishing company with one simple but noble objective: to teach the world to read. From that humble beginning, Wendy has created one of the world's leading publishing and technology companies focussing on literacy and making it fun to read and learn. She now has more than 1800 titles and has sold more than 218 million books worldwide, while implementing unique learning programs in some of the least developed environments in the world. She has been a champion of women through her work in Asia Pacific and most recently was invited by the Prime Minister of New Zealand to be a founder of the NZ Global Women, a network of more than 80 of NZ's top businesswomen. Wendy is fearless and passionate and women anywhere could not have a better advocate, she has helped raise literally hundreds of thousands if not millions of young women worldwide out of poverty by working with governments and education departments to implement new policies on curriculum development for literacy. Wendy's tireless campaign on behalf of illiteracy which affects more women than men more than qualifies her as a recipient of the TIAW Award.

HELEN REEVES – *Toronto, ON, Canada*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Helen is a key executive at MTS Allstream and plays a crucial role in the company. However, Helen takes the time from her busy schedule to mentor other women, empower them to overcome the obstacles, break the glass ceiling and pursue their dreams, improve financial status, earn higher incomes through recognition and promotions across companies and industries.

More importantly, Helen has demonstrated her openness, compassion and ability to help first generation immigrant women and instill economic empowerment and build their Canadian professional network. She never closes the door simply because of the complexity of understanding the differences or social gaps between a newcomer and a local seasoned executive.

Her openness and insights encourage her mentees to strive to fill the gaps toward a potential dream career. Her colleagues and mentees hope that this award will encourage more successful women to help others, especially those that most need it.

LARKE RIEMER – *Melbourne, Vic, Australia*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Larke Riemer, National Head of Women's Markets, Westpac Banking Corporation heads a team of State Managers in Australia who work alongside women in business, driving strategies that will assist them to reach their goals and increase their economic empowerment.

Larke has worked in the banking sector for 25 years; the last 10 in Women's Markets. It is because of Larke's personal passion and efforts that Westpac is positioned as the No 1 bank in Australia for Women in Business. She has shown her commitment to supporting women in Australia through the Women's Markets by creating business educational programming, financial literacy training, and providing networking resources specifically for women. She spearheaded the launch of the first stand-alone community website for women in business by a financial institution called therubyconnection.com.au.

Larke devotes considerable time as Chair of the Global Banking Alliance for Women. As the leading organization of financial institutions driving women's wealth creation worldwide, Larke's contribution over the past two years has been instrumental in growing the organization's membership, extending its reach around the globe, and increasing the organization's credibility.

Larke's commitment to women goes beyond bank products and services to something of greater importance. That is educating the banks about the impact women have on the business and economic landscape. Larke feels that with the current global financial crisis, women in banking and their customers will play a very crucial role in re-establishing confidence and trust in the banking sectors globally.

ROSIE RIOS – *Washington, DC*
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Rosie Rios serves as the Treasurer of the United States. She has direct oversight over the U.S. Mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Fort Knox and is a key liaison with the Federal Reserve. In addition, the Treasurer serves as a senior advisor to the Secretary in the areas of community development and public engagement and as such, she has a direct impact on women and their economic empowerment.

She also has taken the initiative to inspire women to seek

careers and/or to advance their careers in Finance not by only her own example but also by spotlighting the careers and contributions of other prominent women in Finance. In this regard, in March 2010, with the support of Secretary Geithner, Ms. Rios organized the Women in Finance Symposium, which was hosted by Treasury and the White House Council on Women and Girls. The purpose of the Symposium was to recognize the important role that women in the Obama Administration and the private sector were playing in the economic recovery, connect business organizations in support of Women in Finance, and inspire future generations of women and girls who are considering finance, economic or business as a career. Several women who helped to craft the Nation's response to the financial meltdown, which include Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Sheila Bair, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Mary Schapiro, then-Congressional Oversight Panel Chair Elizabeth Warren, Small Business Administrator Karen Mills, Council of Economic Advisors Chair Christina Romer, spoke at the Symposium.

Ms. Rios assembled a collection of 21 photos of women who were working in Treasury between 1974 through the 1900s. Those photos are on display in the corridor near her office at Treasury to serve as a reminder of the important role that women have played in the United States' financial history.

Working mothers as well as fathers often find it difficult to balance out their work and family demands. Ms. Rios understands that employers should act, where possible, to help their employees achieve such balance. Thus, when she learned that there were no nursing rooms available at the Main Treasury Building, Ms. Rios acted immediately to make sure that Treasury provided private, well-equipped nursing rooms to nursing mothers working in the building as quickly as possible.

In view of the foregoing, on behalf of the Executive Women in Government, I strongly recommend that Ms. Rios receive the TIAW World of Difference 100 Award this year.

CATHI RODGVELLER – *Brier, WA, USA*
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Girls need our support to not only succeed but to thrive and excel in high paying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers. Cathi Rodgveller, founder of IGNITE, has experienced first hand the impact of this program. In its 10+ year history the organization has touched the lives of over 18,000 students from middle school through university. IGNITE brings together young women, educators and women professionals who work for local companies and live in nearby neighborhoods as role models and mentors.

The State Department has identified IGNITE as a representative model for educators around the world attempting to increase female STEM representation. Cathi regularly meets with international delegations as part of this effort. IGNITE extends its impact in developing countries as the curriculum is being translated into multiple foreign languages. IGNITE is reaching out to educators in Nigeria,

Pakistan, South Africa, Libya, England and Egypt in addition to their continued work in the United States.

IGNITE offers an affordable, community-based, multifaceted approach to STEM education – providing toolkits and curriculum which allow educators across the globe to replicate the successful model that flourishes in Seattle Public Schools. In Seattle schools, the number of young women in technology courses more than doubled after the implementation of the IGNITE program in high schools. United States Senator Maria Cantwell has partnered with IGNITE to initiate national legislation, named after IGNITE to honor this work, that will provide \$50 million in funding for girls' technology education.

DEBBY ROONEY – *Ventnor, NJ, USA*
CATEGORY: EDUCATION



Debby Rooney is the Co-founder and President of BEADS for Education, a very small organization. When she started BEADS she had a full-time job, but eventually decided to work on BEADS full time and invested her life savings into the program. She spends about three months per year in Kenya and personally oversees all BEADS activities. Her personal investment, motivation and dedication has yielded a successful program where girls, who are usually the first in their families to finish elementary school, are now beginning to graduate from college, select a husband of their choice, become the sole wife and develop a career. This year, ten more girls will graduate from college and hopefully become successful members of their communities, as others before them have become.

BEADS presently sponsors, more than 320 girls who receive school fees from 4th grade through college/university. The sponsored girls come from 11 tribes and 85% of the sponsored girls are Maasai. Most of these girls would have married as early as 13, become the second or third wife to a 30 plus year old man, bear as many children as possible and be sentenced to a life of poverty.

Each sponsored girl is matched with a sponsor for the duration of the girl's education. 100% of the sponsors' donation is used for the girl's school fees and basic requirements.

Debby is planning to start a private BEADS high school in Kenya to address gaps in current education.

SIEGLINE SCHNEIDER – Wiesbaden, Germany

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Sieglene Schneider is a very active member of our network EWMD (European Women's Management Development) for more than 20 years. She just recently had significant influence on the "quota discussion" for women on boards in Germany and is pushing the topic of women to become leaders in all her activities. Businesswise she is a communication specialist and has her company "Accente" in Wiesbaden with a small team. Her main focus is about employer behaviour management and diversity management. She has a very powerful personality, and with charm and charisma she is a role model for many

women in companies - as well as for young entrepreneurs. Sieglene has also served the board of EWMD in Germany and other activities related to women in management with the city council of Frankfurt.

SARAH SPEAKE – London, United Kingdom

CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Sarah Speake is an inspirational executive who has done her utmost to support women in business. As someone who feels passionately about diversity contributing to better business, she was nominated Diversity Champion EMEA for Google; she runs the Google EMEA Women's Leadership Council; and sits on the Project team for Connecting Women in Technology. Sarah spearheaded Google's involvement in Connecting Women in Technology, a collaboration between Cisco, Dell, Intel, IBM, HP, Microsoft & Avaya to host events and support Women in Technology. She also is on the Management

Committee for Women in Technology and regularly speaks at events on the topic.

Sarah initiated Google's collaboration with the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. She has led the project team to build a technology platform to enable an inter-country mentoring system to help disadvantaged women in India; and to provide UK-based mentors to female SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) in India.

In Google, she is a mentor of four women (& two men) from different disciplines across the business. Sarah is the business sponsor for all women-related initiatives across Google London. Externally, she is a mentor for a younger female mentee within another organization on the European Women's Professional Network (EWPN) Mentoring Programme.

Sarah has also used personal tragedy to help, inspire and support other women. She wrote a book "Where Did I Go Wrong" to share her story on her daughter's neonatal death. She is a tireless supporter of ISANDS (Stillbirth And Neonatal Death Charity) and has helped to prevent at least 20 women from committing suicide as a result of sharing her book and experience with them. She is a trained counselor for ISANDS, looking after fellow bereaved mothers and hosts monthly support meetings. She is also a regular fundraiser to help reduce stillbirth &

neonatal death rates in the UK.

Sarah is an advocate of Platform 51 (Charity for disadvantaged young women and girls in England & Wales). She is a Trustee on their board and has run “How to embrace Digital” sessions for all employees and improve services to local women that visit their 14 centres nationally.

RUTH SPELLMAN – *London, United Kingdom*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Born and raised as one of six girls in industrial South Wales, Ruth’s parents instilled in her a love and respect for education and learning, and she was the first of her five sisters to go to grammar school, before going on to read economics at Cambridge University.

As chief executive of CMI, Ruth leads the drive towards a higher skilled society, raising the standards and ethics of management and leadership in the post recession world. Her responsibilities and passion for building UK competitiveness and productivity have led to her appointments as Chair of the government’s Careers Profession Alliance and as a key sponsor on the Task Force examining employee engagement.

She has engaged the CMI to actively engage and support a number of highprofile think tanks investing her personal time and skills to offer support for these think tanks to make a mark within the UK’s corporate and political worlds. When she was Chief Executive of Investors in People UK (IIPUK), she spearheaded and integrated equal opportunities into the Standard in 2000 and established the best practice awards.

Ruth is also responsible for the Chartered Management Institute’s campaign to ensure 50 per cent of managers are professionally qualified by 2020 – a role which has seen her spearhead a program bringing professional management qualifications into schools across the UK.

Ruth has been awarded an OBE(Order of the British Empire) for services to Workplace Learning and was recently voted 14th out of the 100 most influential Human Resource individuals in the UK.

JOANNE STANLEY – *Ottawa, ON, Canada*

CATEGORY: NON-PROFIT / NGO



A successful, thriving career in the Canadian telecommunications sector would be more than enough for many women. But for Joanne Stanley, there was too much work to be done on behalf of other women in the field. Over three decades, Joanne has had a chance to see just how sparsely populated are the telecommunications and information technology sectors in Canada and the many challenges women face to advance their careers in these fields. And even among women who choose technology and engineering, she's seen the alarming rate at which women drop out of the industry at a relatively early stage of their careers.

In 2005, while holding a leadership role in the Canadian Advanced Technology Association (CATA), Joanne became the founder and Executive Director of CATA Women in Technology Forum (CATA WIT), which has since evolved into CAN WIT to support women's career success in technology. It's hard to imagine the magnitude of the challenge she took on in creating CATA WIT. With no resources and building from scratch, she persuaded CATA to provide the critical infrastructure and quickly assembled a top notch advisory group and then began creating local chapters needed to engage women across the country.

Joanne has been active in many other initiatives to support women's career advancement, including serving as a Founding Member of Canada's The Taskforce for Women's Business Growth.

AMBASSADOR STEVEN E. STEINER – *Chevy Chase, MD, USA*

CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Ambassador Steven E. Steiner (Ret) is an outstanding achiever who has worked tirelessly to advance the economic power of Iraqi women and is an excellent candidate for the TIAW World of Difference 100 Award. Ambassador Steiner served as Senior Advisor and Director of the Department of State's Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative (IWDI) in the Office of International Women's Issues from June 2004 to October 2007. He also served as the Department's Acting Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues, from April 2006 to December 2006. While in the Office of International Women's Issues, Ambassador Steiner was a champion for the economic empowerment of women in Iraq and for Iraqi women entrepreneurs. He spearheaded the creation of the U.S. Iraqi Businesswomen's Partnership Program, an initiative that connected Iraqi businesswomen with American businesswomen to help them to start and grow small businesses in Iraq. Ambassador Steiner also oversaw a grant program that provided economic empowerment skills training to women in both the North and South of Iraq to enable them to become self-supporting. Further, during the Summer of 2006, Ambassador Steiner oversaw a targeted training program for Iraqi

businesswomen in the United States. The program, in addition to providing training, allowed the delegates to meet valuable business contacts and to gain access to e-training from Lucent Technologies. Through these endeavors, Ambassador Steiner contributed to the ability of women in Iraq to earn a living, start and grow small businesses, and make an economic impact in their communities.

CARLA STENT - *London, United Kingdom*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Carla Stent is a true inspiration. In her words: "Throughout my career I have sought to be a role model for those around me - male or female. Having been given opportunities on which I have capitalised, it is my responsibility to provide similar opportunities to others. Young women, in particular, need role models, champions, mentors and friends to give them the confidence to succeed in what is still, predominately, a male dominated business culture. Personally, I have touched a few lives and encouraged them to do more than they had originally thought possible. I have seen some school leavers turn into wonderful business people - that gives me hope for the future and energy for the next day!"

Carla is passionate about her work, and knows that this award would help her continue sharing her message and hopefully inspire more young women to enter corporate business.

Carla is an avid supporter of women and has tirelessly campaigned for women's empowerment in the corporate arena. She gives her time willingly to any activities that "break the mold" to encourage women to be successful, thus economically empowered, as well as personally fulfilled.

In her previous role as CAO for Barclays Bank, for example, Carla undertook a group-wide review of gender equality in the Bank. Recommendations were presented to the Group Exec and a governance structure has been embedded to ensure that the multi year program is sustainable. She also instigated a "Network of Networks" that facilitated interactions between disparate women's networks.

CAROLINE STROUD - *London, United Kingdom*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE



Carolyn is an employment law partner at the international law firm Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer. Three years ago, Caroline was appointed Global HR Partner. In this new role, Caroline has led a strategy for the advancement of female talent, which has resulted in a number of successful initiatives designed to boost the number of women at senior levels in the firms.

For example, she has overseen the development of a global skills framework -- development programs for women lawyers at different levels have been piloted and successfully rolled out,

and maternity transition coaching introduced.

JENNIFER SUNG & PAULINA LIPSKA – Vancouver, BC, Canada
CATEGORY: YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS UNDER 25



Jen and Paulina are extraordinary young women with a powerful vision to connect young women with the skills and support to achieve success on their own terms and to become engaged members within their communities. To realize this vision, over the past three years they have built and led YWiB (Young Women in Business), a non-profit organization for emerging female leaders in Western Canada.

Today, YWiB provides personal and professional development opportunities to emerging female professionals through:

- Regular and innovative events, including panel sessions and an annual Beyond Pink conference, to connect local business leaders with ambitious young women and foster mutually beneficial relationships.
- Dynamic programs fostering philanthropy and entrepreneurship, providing young women with hands-on, real life experiences to expand their learning.
- University chapters at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria to engage the next generation of future leaders. Programs and events include mentorship, internship and social enterprise.

YWiB is Vancouver's central forum to connect ambitious young women from a variety of careers, industries, and backgrounds. Harnessing the creativity and energy of over 60 volunteers each year, Jen and Paulina strive to provide rich learning and networking opportunities for the almost 500 event and program attendees annually.

YWiB builds confidence and connections for young women. These are our future leaders. Jen and Paulina are true role models as they combine business, education, and community encouraging young women to carve their own path towards economic empowerment.

CLEO THOMPSON – London, UK
CATEGORY: CORPORATE / ENTREPRENEUR



Following an illustrious corporate career, Cleo Thompson is a freelance writer who specializes in all aspects of diversity and global HR stories. She is a real mold-breaker in the area of gender diversity and has always sought ways to support and enhance women's economic and corporate contribution.

In the corporate world, Cleo was the global head of gender diversity at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Her global work included researching/authoring the groundbreaking report on the loss of female talent "The Leaking Pipeline: Where are our female leaders? 79 women share their stories" and serving as Executive Producer on the PWC film, showcased at the 2009 World Economic Forum, "Closing the Gender

Gap", for which she identified, approached and interviewed leading business people, academics and politicians who shared their views and hopes for the world in 2050 and how female talent can help to shape it.

Cleo's writing on the need for gender diversity and female economic empowerment has appeared in numerous websites and newsletters. She has served as a Strategy Council member of the Downing Street Project, has undertaken research on India for the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women and acted as the Global Advisor to the Women Business Leaders' Forum, India.

She is a passionate advocate for women and girls around the world, including supporting the children of illiterate migrant workers.

She is also the author of a novel (set in Goa, India) as well as a blogger at www.TheGenderBlog.com

PHILIPPA THORNE – *Malkerns, Swaziland*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL



Philippa arrived in Swaziland from the UK in 2001 to be a design intern for Gone Rural. Gone Rural is a social business that creates sustainable incomes for 750 women in rural areas in Swaziland. Upon the owner's death in 2003, Philippa took on an increasingly important role. By 2007, Philippa became the managing director of the business at the age of 28. Taking the helm at a difficult and critical time in Gone Rural's growth she surprised everyone by turning the business around within the first year, providing great leadership and creating emphasis on key strategies including product development, brand positioning, pricing and quality, which ultimately would drive growth globally but most importantly to Philippa to grow the income of the rural women. Within four years of Philippa taking over, the business grew by 100% and the wages to the rural women were quadrupled. Today, Gone Rural is one of the largest women owned/managed companies in Swaziland and has been recognized on the world stage for innovative products and design, as well as the unique model that combines an income generating business and a non - profit company that supports the artisans and their communities through health and education programs. Philippa has taken a lead role in promoting the development of the handcraft sector in Swaziland and has mentored many start up and emerging craft companies in the country.

SALSAWIT TSEGA – *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL

Salsawit Tsega founded Ezra Innovative Design in 2003 with the goal to fulfill her passion for art while helping women develop technical skills and abilities. Ezra Innovative Design's vision is to lead the handicraft industry and to create a modern sophisticated Ethiopian brand that is recognized for its quality and appreciated worldwide because of its values that aims to contribute to the community.

Ezra Innovative Design preserves traditional African designs by offering products based on the finest aesthetic and artistic traditional workmanship. Its products range from jute braided hampers and sitting cushions, to woven paper trays and organizing baskets, mirrors, benches, chairs and stools. Recently, the company launched a series of products using traditionally woven jute, banana leaf, papyrus, and recycled paper. Ezra's 2010 collection included beautiful leather home accessories such as mirrors, lampshades, and console tables.

Ezra Innovative Design is a good example of how a small business can grow from 2 to 40 employees in a very short period of time. Currently, the company has provided full time employment for 40 young girls and women.

Salsawit provides to the women technical training that enables them to build their skills and confidence, and to improve their economic status. As a result, the company has built a strong team of women that has become a family. Through her handicraft production, Salsawit continues providing skills and increasing employment opportunities, and raises the standard of living of both rural and urban populations.

Salsawit is the president of the Women Entrepreneurs Group (WEG) in Addis Ababa. WEG was established by the support of the US Embassy with the aim to address the constraints that women entrepreneurs, especially Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face in Ethiopia. Salsawit leads a group of about 30 women entrepreneurs who are in service and manufacturing.

Salsawit is a Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Center for African Women Economic Empowerment, where her involvement in the Board, as a young woman entrepreneur is very instrumental, allowing her to contribute and concentrate her work on the issues and concerns of young women entrepreneurs.

GENEVIEVE VANDERVELDT-L'ESPERANCE - *Montreal, QC, Canada*
CATEGORY: YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS (UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE)



At 15 years of age, unlike most girls, Genevieve spent her summer studying technology so that she could help girls in culturally disparaged countries become economically and socially empowered through a career in technology. At 18, Genevieve is now studying full-time, but continues her quest to inspire girls to consider a career in an industry that has few women, particularly at senior levels. With no funding she travels to tech conferences to interview senior people in IT roles. She recently created GEN.INC, her portal for empowerment through education, events and giving women in

tech visibility.

Gen, currently the youngest female Microsoft Certified Pro worldwide, has now developed an education program "Teaching Girls Programming," that she delivers through events she organizes. Through her YouTube channel, Facebook site and blog, Gen INC provides training and thought leadership at a critical age when girls do not understand the economic power of a technology career.

On the speaker circuit Gen challenges young women to mentor the next generation. Featured in the media, she headlines the latest Microsoft Learning Video encouraging her generation to “get certified”.

Gen was the sole Canadian Student at the Microsoft Worldwide partner conference in Washington in 2010, the host video blogger for the US Imagine Cup, keynote speaker at Dare2Bdigital in San Jose with 450 attendees, the only female Microsoft Student Partner in Canada and the youngest instructor of Small Basic. Even James Cameron talked about this one-woman power house role model for girls.

GAYLE WALDRON – Largo, Florida, USA
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Gayle Waldron is the President of The Management Edge, a consulting and professional development firm dedicated to advancing the economic empowerment of women by increasing their access to government procurement opportunities.

Gayle has applied her 17 years of experience as a federal government contractor to help economically empower women business owners through her involvement with the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP). Through her advocacy in these organizations, she has been instrumental in helping both the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Congress understand underlying issues women in business face and has helped develop strategies to combat these inequities.

Gayle has spent the past ten years working toward the passage of SBA’s Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program. Along with other supporters, Gayle believes that small businesses, particularly women owned, will be a major force in creating jobs to pull the country out of the economic slump.

Gayle actively mentors women business owners and contributes to global organizations that provide micro-financing for women business owners in developing countries.

Her efforts have been honored with 2011 awards from Minority Enterprise Advocate magazine as one of the 50 Women of Influence and Power and Enterprising Women magazine as one of the Enterprising Women of the Year. Gayle has also received awards from Diversity Business every year since 2006. In 2010, she was selected as a US State Dept. Delegate, representing women business owners, to the Women’s Leadership Network, a part of the APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Council).

BRENDA WALKER - Arlington, Virginia, USA
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Brenda Walker is a passionate champion and role model as demonstrated by her helping numerous women succeed and achieve their dreams. Ms. Walker is a Principal at Deloitte Consulting LLP. She serves as the Executive for Deloitte's Corporate Sponsorship to the Executive Women in Government (EWG) association, providing financial, resource and venue support. Working with the EWG President, she was instrumental in launching a significant ground-breaking government Mentor-Protégé program. It enables members to assist future government executives with career decisions, professional development, and life transitions.

At Deloitte, Brenda provides leadership through the Deloitte Women Initiative (WIN), which helps to build the pipeline for women's advancement and sponsorship through innovation, professional development, community and eminence. For over 12 years, Brenda has been facilitating women's success at every stage of their careers and providing strong mentorship and leadership to help customize their career options and ensure their future success. She has made herself available to women well beyond normal expectations and coaches them on personal and professional decisions, offers career advice and mobilizes her personal and professional networks on their behalf. Her efforts have helped to build diversity in leadership roles at the Deloitte Partnership level and in the government executive ranks. Her leadership style exemplifies a strong leader who truly makes a difference by allowing women to achieve career success and economic empowerment.

JOHN WOOD – San Francisco, CA, USA
CATEGORY: CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



In 1999, while hiking in the Himalayas, John Wood, a Microsoft Executive met a Nepalese "Education Resource Officer" who invited him to visit a school in a neighboring village. As John left the village, the headmaster made a simple request: "Perhaps, Sir, you will someday come back with books." Within two months, John had collected over 3,000 books. The faces of the children with the books convinced him to leave Microsoft and start Room to Read.

In collaboration with local communities, partner organizations, and governments Room to Read has impacted nine countries in the most disadvantaged regions across Asia and Africa:

1,442	Schools
11,246	Libraries
553	Local Language Books Published
9.4 million	Books Distributed
10,390	Girls' Scholarships
5.1 million	Children Benefited

10,000 girls' lives significantly changed because of their participation in the Girls' Education program with access to improved educational opportunities and material support in the form of books, uniforms, bicycles and school supplies. Room to Read's life skills training helps strengthen their ability to negotiate key life decisions. The Entrepreneurial Skills Package provided to girls in 9th through 12th grade ensures the opportunity of economic empowerment, as it focuses on career options, role-modeling, marketplace exposure and basic financial literacy. Room to Read employs a multi-faceted approach to engage the students and their families, as well as the broader community, in fostering a girl friendly environment.

By 2015, Room to Read's programs are estimated to reach more than 10 million children enabling them to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their community and the world.

FIONA WOOLF – *London, United Kingdom*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Fiona Woolf has an impressive list of achievements in the UK and internationally. Formerly a Partner and now a Consultant at CMS Cameron McKenna, she has advised over 25 Governments and multi-lateral agencies on infrastructure and energy reforms.

In recognition of her contribution to the UK knowledge economy and invisible earnings for this work, she was appointed a Commander of the British Empire. Fiona was the first female President of the Law Society of England and Wales from 2006 to 2007. As President, she established a project to review the high attrition rates and poor statistics on career advancement amongst women lawyers. This was followed up by debates on the issues and a major conference discussing how the issues can be addressed.

Fiona has also chaired the Association of Women Solicitors, growing its influence and scope from a small London based group to a national organization with over 20,000 members. In 2010 she was elected the 3rd female Sheriff in the long history of the City of London and, subject to election, she will be the 2nd female Lord Mayor of the City of London in a few years' time.

Fiona is a great supporter of women and she is a member of Forum UK which is affiliated to the International Women's Forum, and she is a member of the City Women's Network. Her other appointments include being a Member of the Competition Commission, a Non Executive Director of Veolia Water Central Limited, and a Trustee of Raleigh International.

JACKY WRIGHT- *London, United Kingdom*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Jacky Wright was appointed the Vice President/Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Information Technology (IT) and Services for British Petroleum's (BP) Corporate Functions including Alternative Energy and Shipping divisions in September 2008. She has global responsibility for the IT strategy, implementation and operations.

Jacky has been a fervent supporter of women in business. As the most senior woman in IT, Jacky has played a key role in the development of women at BP. She formed the Women in IT organization, which provides a forum for women to share, discuss and highlight women's challenges in the corporate world. She has formed BP partnerships with Hewlett Packard and Deloitte globally; creating cross mentoring relationships and conducting forums between the companies to share best practices related to diversity and inclusion. She has raised the visibility of women in key roles in BP by also creating a partnership with the Women in Technology Inc. a U.K. based organization. She is an executive sponsor of BP's Positively Ethnic Network, which is making great strides in focusing on increasing the pipeline for ethnic minorities.

Jacky has long been an advocate for diversity and speaks regularly at external forums. With more than 20 years experience Jacky has been a senior executive at General Electric, and has held other leadership positions at companies such as Accenture and Ryder System Inc.

SANDRA YANCEY – *Dallas, TX, USA*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL

Linked in, Facebook. Sound familiar? Did you know that there was a hugely successful on-line social marketing site for women long before Facebook? Eleven years ago, entrepreneur, Sandra Yancey, from Dallas, Texas, had the foresight to create the very first on-line community for professional and business women. The website was named www.ewomennetwork.com

Sandra quickly realized that she was ahead of the trend and realized in addition to the website and for business success, women want face-to-face relationships. So, the local chapters of eWomen Network were born.

Today eWomen Network is the #1 resource for connecting and promoting business women, with over 115 chapters throughout North America and Australia. The website is the most visited women's site on the internet. eWomen Network offers women diverse resources that aid in them in operating a successful business. They can save in purchasing, access a publishing alliance, keynote speakers bureau, offers affordable business education, monthly marketing events and a large annual international conference for women.

Sandra is not always about profit. She is the producer of 'The Glow Movie', a powerful movie heralded as one of the most inspiring movies ever created for

women. Sandra is the co-founder of MyGLOW.Net, an international purpose-driven social network for women.

The separate, non-profit eWomen Network Foundation supports the financial and emotional health of women and children. Annually, thousands of dollars are given in grants and awards. Young women in leadership roles and women 'Femtors' are also celebrated.

Sandra Yancey, author, producer, and leader; authentic, inspirational and supporter of women.

DILARA YEGANI – *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*
CATEGORY: CORPORATE (INDIVIDUAL WOMEN)



Dilara Yegani is an inspiring woman. She has attained success through an enviable reputation for her hard work and business acumen, and uses those attributes in her tireless and wide-ranging efforts to ensure that diversity is embraced by the corporate world to allow others, particularly other immigrant women, to follow her path. Within TELUS, a large international telecommunications company, where she has built a strong reputation through her long career, she has served on the board of directors of two employee groups which align with her passion.

TELUS Connections is a women's network which supports the advancement of business expertise, mentoring and networking opportunities for women across the country. The Diversity and Inclusiveness Council, of which she was an inaugural member, works to develop and support effective programs and activities to enhance the understanding and support for diversity within TELUS. Within her community, she volunteers and serves as a board member of Changing Together, a not-for-profit, pre-employment, life skills orientation program for women who have moved to Canada within the last three years, helping to ensure they have the skills to be economically successful. She has also begun to work with a post-secondary institution to develop and deliver diversity training to students and staff. She is working hard to build a legacy of successful women in her company and her community.

LORELLA ZANARDO – *Milan, Italy*
CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURIAL

Lorella's essence is encapsulated in her work for Women's Bodies - 'Il corpo delle donne'. A documentary was bravely created as a revolt against the portrayal of women in Italian and international media. Lorella's influence, not only nationally but internationally, can be seen through the immense media attention her documentary and website have achieved, giving her a platform to be a true change agent leading the fight for fair representation of women in the media. Her documentary has been seen by more than four million people through the internet and with an extremely low budget she has been able to influence many people.

Lorella Zanardo has worked in the marketing field for many years, holding

positions of responsibilities in Italian companies and foreign multinationals. She has been European Brand Manager for Unilever in Milan and Paris, as well as Marketing Director for Gruppo Mondadori.

She has worked as a training specialist and consultant for EEC in the East European countries, whilst also following community projects within Diversity Management. As a Marketing Lecturer in Italy and abroad, she has organized and chaired innovative courses on basic themes of change for organizations and individuals.

She co-founded Sportgate, a company specializing in consultancy services and innovative training, proposed both through sport and the stories of great Olympic champions. However, her biggest accomplishment is for her work with the documentary, the book and the movement, Women's Bodies - il corpo delle donne.