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## **Two Events Show How Women Can Break Down Road Blocks and Attain Economic Influence**

***“Miss Representation” film tells an ugly truth about portrayal of women in popular media***

***“Women – The Best Investment You Can Make” event reveals how investing in gender-diverse companies can benefit both corporations and investors***

The Women’s Economic Council Foundation (WECF) today announced two new events connected with the 2011 Economic Summit for Women, which will take place October 24 and 25 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. The overarching theme for this year’s Summit is a “Road Map to Financial Equity”, and both new events represent ways for women to break down road blocks and attain greater economic influence.

The screening of the film “Miss Representation” will take place at Lipscomb University’s Ezell Center on October 24 at 6:30 PM, and will be free of charge to all registered attendees of the Summit. There will be a panel discussion earlier that day focusing on The Media’s Influence on Women and Girls, which is part of the regular Summit program. The panel will feature guest speaker Dr. Stacy Smith, Associate Professor, University of Southern California, who has overseen substantial research on children’s responses to mass media portrayals of violence, gender and hyper sexuality. The session also includes Beth Curley, CEO-Nashville Public Television and Linda Garceau, CEO – Centerstone Foundation.

“While national visibility is critical, experience shows that gender inequity is culturally ingrained in ways that vary from state to state,” said Yvonne Wood, Director of the Economic Summit for women. “We are delighted to champion the film at this year’s program on behalf of Tennessee women and girls.”

On October 25, the breakfast event and panel discussion “Women: The Best Investment You Can Make” will showcase gender diversity as an investment concept. The event will take place from 7:30 – 9:00 AM at the Nashville Airport Marriott, and attendance is free of charge. The panel will be moderated by Sarah Meyerrose, President of the national group InterOrganization Network (ION), and will feature Kathleen McQuiggen of PAX World and Jan Babiak from the Investor perspective. Discussion will focus on the well-documented business case that gender diversity on corporate boards and in executive suites is a positive indicator of future performance.

“We appreciate the efforts of CABLE Women on Corporate Boards, and there clearly is synergy between our organizations for helping women attain economic parity with their male counterparts,” said Wood. “This type of event takes our keynote speaker Jean Chatzky’s message to an actionable level that can affect an individual’s pocket book.”

No pre-registration is required for the screening of "Miss Representation". For reservations or questions about "Women - The Best Investment You Can Make" contact [kimberlymarlinbean@comcast.net](mailto:kimberlymarlinbean@comcast.net).

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### **About the Economic Summit for Women**

The Economic Summit for Women is an annual event established to help Tennessee women become economically self-sufficient. It is presented by the Women's Economic Council Foundation and the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. The latter has the smallest budget of any state agency in Tennessee.

Since the event began in 2004, thousands of women have gathered at the Summit to hear expert speakers discuss women's economic issues such as medical costs, financial planning, literacy, business ownership and development, and political participation. Speakers have included Patricia Schroeder, Marie Wilson, Sandra Day O'Connor, Robin Gerber, Helen Thomas, Gail Evans, Governor Phil Bredesen, Dee Dee Myers and Gloria Steinem.

The 2011 event will take place on October 24, with featured speakers including Jean Chatzky of NBC's Today Show, Kathy Hannan, National Managing Partner of Diversity and Corporate Responsibility, KPMG, and The Honorable Beth Harwell, Speaker, Tennessee House of Representatives.

For further information visit [www.tnwomensummit.org](http://www.tnwomensummit.org)

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