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Eighth Annual Economic Summit for Women (ESW) Highlights a “Road Map to Financial Equity” for Tennessee Women

Keynotes Jean Chatzky, Kathy Hannan, and Beth Harwell offer insights to help women counteract chronic gender discrimination in the private and public sectors.

The Women’s Economic Council Foundation (WECF) today announced the program for the 2011 Economic Summit for Women, which will take place October 24 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. Registration is now open to the public, with details available at www.tnwomensummit.org. The overarching theme for this year’s event is a “Road Map to Financial Equity”, with the agenda highlighting the chronic gender discrimination in our state and paths to effect change through private and public sector channels. Keynote speakers include:

- Jean Chatzky, Journalist, Author and Financial Editor, NBC Today Show, will reveal how individual women can meet and overcome financial challenges in their personal and professional lives.
- Kathy Hannan, National Managing Partner of Diversity and Corporate Responsibility at KPMG will cover how corporate self-regulation successfully can drive diversity best practice and talent sustainability.
- The Honorable Beth Harwell, Speaker – Tennessee House of Representatives, will discuss how women can achieve political influence, and how women in political leadership can effect change in the state.

“Most recent figures show that women still earn only 80 cents to a man’s dollar, with salaries of men and women at similar levels in the same industries showing a gender wage gap that has changed very little over the years,” said Yvonne Wood, Director of The Economic Summit for Women. “The Summit speaker program is designed not only to explore symptoms of this chronic problem in Tennessee, but also to recommend concrete actions individual women can take to change underlying causes for the next generation.”

The robust day-long agenda also includes presentation of the 2011 E-Awards, to honor three individuals and three companies that are role models for economic success in Tennessee, and panel discussion about the study and documentary film “Miss Representation” led by Dr. Stacy Smith, Associate Professor, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism - University of Southern California. A screening of the film will take

place October 24 at 6:30 PM, at Lipscomb University's Ezell Center. Admission will be complimentary to all registrants of the Eighth Annual Economic Summit for Women, and press passes are available upon advance request.

"Thanks to the Summit's partners such as St. Thomas Health Services, Vanderbilt University, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and KPMG, we are able to shine a spotlight on the resources women represent to help drive Tennessee's return to prosperity, pride and healthy growth," said Wood. "We expect to see record attendance at this year's Summit, with hundreds of women aiming to effect change or simply to be aware and keep the conversation vibrant."

To register for the 2011 Economic Summit for Women, visit
www.tnwomensummit.org

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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

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‘Women in Tennessee’ Quick Fact Sheet

Women are better educated than men . . .

- Women made up the majority (55.7 percent) of degrees awarded at University of Tennessee schools in 2009-2010. Women made up even higher percentages of degrees awarded at Tennessee Board of Regents universities (60.1 percent) and at community colleges (62 percent) during that time.
- In Tennessee public universities women earned the majority of Associates (66.1 percent), Bachelors (57.4 percent), Graduate Certificate (71.2 percent), Masters (62.7 percent), Ed.S. (79.7 percent), Professional (51.6 percent) and Ph.D. (57.7 percent) degrees in 2009-2010. In TBR universities women earned fewer J.D. degrees and fewer M.D. degrees than men during this period.

Sources: TBR 14th Day Enrollment, TBR Academic Affairs / Research and Assessment; Tennessee Higher Education Commission Fact Book 2010 – 2011.

. . . But men earn higher wages

- In recent years the female to male earnings ratio declined, from 80.4 percent in 2004 to 79.9 percent in 2009.
- The earnings of men and women at similar education levels and within the same occupation still show a gender wage gap.

Source: Tennessee Economic Council on Women, “The Economic Impact of Wages and Earnings for Tennessee Women” 2009.

Women-owned businesses are fewer and less profitable than businesses owned by men.

- The number of women-owned businesses grew by almost 20 percent and the receipts from these firms grew by over 20 percent between 2002 and 2007.
- The number of female owned businesses in Tennessee is approximately 50 percent of the number of male-owned businesses. Yet, women-owned firms generated just 13.3 percent of the revenues of male-owned firms and employed only 15.1 percent of the number of people employed by their male counterparts.

Source: Tennessee Economic Council on Women. The Economic Impact of Women-Owned Businesses in Tennessee. 2010.

The percent of women covered by health insurance is declining.

- Health Insurance coverage has declined for all women over the last decade. In 2004 90.4% of all Tennessee women had some form of health care coverage. The latest data published in 2009 reflects 87.2% have coverage in 2009.

Source: Vanderbilt University. 2011 Tennessee Women’s Health Report Card.

More women than men are victims of domestic violence.

- According to 2010 figures, 61,179 women and 23,818 men were victims of reported domestic violence in Tennessee.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Crime in Tennessee 2002 and 2010.

For information about the 2011 Economic Summit for Women contact Yvonne Wood at (615) 444-9663 or visit www.tnwomensummit.org.