



NEWS RELEASE

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Leadership America Convenes Women Executives to Learn the “Next Big Thing” in Women’s Leadership Programming

Program will explore what women leaders will need to be successful in the 21st century

DALLAS, September 8, 2008—Leadership America, one of the nation’s oldest national program for the development of executive-level women, will launch a series of regional leader summits to uncover the “Next Big Thing” in women’s leadership development.

National Women Leaders Summit Series dates and cities:

- Monday, September 8 Omni Chicago – Chicago, Ill.
- Thursday, September 11 Omni Shoreham – Washington, D.C.
- Thursday, September 18 Omni San Francisco – San Francisco, Calif.
- Friday, September 19 Omni Los Angeles – Los Angeles, Calif.
- Saturday, October 11 Omni Mandalay – Irving, Texas (Dallas)

Leadership America, along with six collaborating organizations listed below will convene women leaders, as well as Leadership America alumnae, and the next generation of up-and-coming women to examine what kind of professional development programming has contributed to advancing their careers. In addition to exploring opinions on current leadership development program content, the women will be led through a real-time survey and open dialogue session asking what skills they need from a leadership program to aid in their successful rise up the corporate ladder.

Purpose of the National Women Leaders Summit Series is to:

- Evaluate women’s leadership development programming spanning the last 25 years.
- Assess tools and vehicles needed for today’s successful women leaders.
- Define existing barriers to women’s advancement today.

Leadership America is proudly presented by The Women’s Museum as its flagship program under The Institute for the Future.

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"In accord with our belief that a fully democratic civil society must represent and involve both men and women, this program will create the best next step to prepare women leaders to be full participants in top leadership roles nationwide and internationally," says Wanda Brice, CEO, The Women's Museum.

At the conclusion of the Summit Series, Leadership America launch an online survey and human resources survey through the end of 2008. Survey findings will be announced along with the new 2009 Leadership America program in 2009.

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COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

National African-American Women's Leadership Institute, the National Hispana Leaders Institute, the Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Leadership Texas, Leadership Illinois and Leadership California

LEADERSHIP AMERICA: NATIONAL PROGRAM SPONSOR

This important initiative is made possible by the generous support of State Farm Insurance Companies. Recognized as one of America's top corporate supporters of women's leadership and diversity, State Farm's senior executive team includes many highly accomplished women, including Executive Vice Presidents Barbara Cowden and Deborah Traskell, State Farm Life Chief Administrative Officer Susan Waring, and Vice President – Marketing Pamela K. El, who help lead and serve the company's 77 million auto, fire, life and health policies in the United States and Canada.

LEADERSHIP AMERICA and THE WOMEN'S MUSEUM: AN INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

Leadership America premiered in 1988 as a national program for the development of executive-level women. Since that time, more than 2,500 participants have benefited from the program's in-depth exposure to the nation's most critical issues, exploration of their personal leadership abilities and relationship-building with other powerful women leaders. Program graduates include such notable leaders as The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, United States Representative; Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Director, Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; Gloria G Rodriguez, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, Avance Family Support and Education Programs; and, Cassandra Carr, Senior Executive Vice President, AT&T. The Women's Museum is proud to present Leadership America as its flagship program under *The Institute for the Future* as part of the Museum's efforts to make a difference, one inspiration at a time.