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WITI SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE FEATURES INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS TRENDS, PROVIDES VENTURE CONNECTIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Conference Presented The First Beckey Award In Recognition Of Women's Achievements In Business Leadership

SAN DIEGO – February 21, 2006 – WITI (Women In Technology International), the world's leading professional organization for tech-savvy women, is proud to announce that its regional conference, "Taking the Lead... In the Digital Age: San Diego," attracted more than 450 attendees from all over the country with its industry relevant topics and stellar lineup of experts. The conference was a networking hub that provided new knowledge and prospects within the technology, bioscience and business marketplace.

The conference, held at the Hilton Torrey Pines Hotel in La Jolla, CA on February 13 and 14, showcased speakers, sponsors and exhibitors from top companies including Staples, Rockwell Collins, MENTTIUM, Target, Cummins, Raytheon and others. Strategic partnerships and local support came from the *San Diego Business Journal*, KPBS, Fish & Richardson P.C., BioScience Business Solutions, Tech Coast Angels and many more.

"We are pleased with the success of the conference, which has increased the visibility of WITI San Diego beyond the valley. More importantly, this conference represented what WITI stands for, which is a commitment to positive change and transformation while empowering and inspiring its partners and members worldwide," said Jennifer Beckey, regional vice president of WITI. "This year's conference would not have been possible without the wonderful support and commitment of our partners and sponsors."

WITI's founder and CEO, Carolyn Leighton and president, David Leighton, presented Beckey with an award in recognition of how she has embodied the WITI woman – independent, reaching out, shaping and creating other opportunities for other women.

This award spun-off the first WITI San Diego's Beckey Award as a tribute to women's accomplishments as business leaders and entrepreneurs. Fittingly, it was awarded to Tyler Orion of CONNECT, who is representative of this elite group of women who is helping educate corporate America on the power of female leadership.

Conference Highlights

- The Venture Connections featured 24 emerging growth technology and life sciences companies that presented their business plans to a group of select investors, in their attempts to raise equity capital for their businesses. Participating companies were screened in advance, and came from California, Chicago, Boston and Vancouver, B.C.
- Carol Ammon, founder and chair of Endo Pharmaceuticals, was a dynamic keynote speaker who shared an incredible story about her exciting journey from scientist to entrepreneur and how founding a successful business is about people.
- The Women's Summit featured five sessions that focused on the value and best practices of female leadership, as demonstrated by a lively discussion led by pioneering coach Bill Lamond, mentoring and how to competitively do business globally.
- The conference showcased a wide array of sessions covering biosciences, career and professional development, general business and technology. Each track featured sessions that demonstrated strategies, relevant trends and personal success stories from leading industry experts.

Testimonials from various conference attendees include keywords such as collaboration, capitalism, personal growth and mentorship.

"The conference's leadership sessions has provided me with new insight from topnotch leaders who has what it takes to get ahead," said Mary Colella of business consulting services with IBM. "I appreciate the different perspectives I have gained these past two days."

WITI will host its annual technology and business conference in Las Vegas, "Taking the Lead... In the Digital Age" on July 9-11, 2006 at the Aladdin Resort and Casino. For more information and to register for the event, visit www.witi.com.

About WITI

Since 1989, WITI is the premiere global trade professional association for tech-savvy women who acquire wealth, power and influence in the business marketplace. With a global network of smart, talented women and a market reach exceeding two million, WITI has established powerful strategic alliances and programs to provide connections, resources, and opportunities within a supportive environment of women committed to helping each other. WITI's mission is to empower women worldwide to achieve unimagined possibilities and transformations through technology, leadership and economic prosperity.

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