



NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT

Institute for Women Entrepreneurs Presents Leaders of Distinction Awards at Its Women's Summit on June 18

WHAT

The Institute for Women Entrepreneurs (IWE), an economic development program of the Rancho Santiago Community College District Foundation, presents the second annual Leaders of Distinction Awards. The awards were established in 2008 to celebrate the unwavering commitment of women whose vision and leadership advance the growth and fulfillment of women, the communities they serve, and the small businesses they impact every day. The recognition will take place as part of its Women's Summit 2009, "The Power Within."

The Leaders of Distinction honorees include:

- **Lidia S. Martinez**, Corporate Community Affairs Manager, Southwest Airlines
- **Jan Norman**, Award-winning Reporter, Columnist and Author, *The Orange County Register*
- **Susan Solovic**, CEO and Chairman, SBTV
- **Michelle Steel**, Board Member, California State Board of Equalization. Third District

The Entrepreneurs of Distinction honorees include:

- **Teresa Christopher**, President, TC's Warriors in Motion
- **Nina Craft, Ph.D., M.B.A.**, CEO, VisionFocus
- **Carla and Andrea Sancho**, Chief Executive Officers, WeddingCollectibles.com
- **Haydee Vandendriessche**, Founder and Owner, At Haydee's Skin and Body Care

For biographies of each of these amazing women of distinction, please visit <http://iweoc.org/SUMMIT-2009/Leaders-of-Distinction.html>.

WHERE

Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort, 1855 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, CA,

WHEN

Thursday, June 18, 2009

12:00 p.m. Leaders of Distinction Awards Luncheon and Keynote Presentation by Susan Solovic. The luncheon is part of the Institute for Women Entrepreneur's Women's Summit, "The Power Within."

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WHO

This summit is made possible through the generous support of sponsors including:

- Aetna
- California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce/Latina Development Council
- Center of Excellence
- Chevron
- Citibank
- Comerica Bank
- Orange County One-Stop Center
- Orange County Workforce Investment Board
- Para Todos
- VisualRS Designs

WHY

Event organizers strive to make it the largest cross-cultural statewide gathering of women in Southern California. The summit is a culmination of IWE's work with more than 6,200 business owners and its collaboration with their partner organizations. The IWE, an economic development program of the Rancho Santiago Community College District Foundation, holds the distinction of being the first and only women's business center in Orange County funded in part through a grant from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The mission of IWE is to empower women entrepreneurs in all stages of business development through technical assistance, business counseling, mentoring, access to resources and networking.

HOW

Registration for the full-day conference tailor-made with women entrepreneurs in mind is \$129, including the "Leaders of Distinction Luncheon," full access to the business expo, a range of business workshops, networking, business matchmaking, and more. To register or for information on sponsorship or exhibitor opportunities, contact (714) 480-7458 or visit www.ociwe.org

About the Institute for Women Entrepreneurs

The Institute for Women Entrepreneurs (IWE), an economic development program of the Rancho Santiago Community College District Foundation, broadens the reach of business training and consulting to help women start, grow and expand their small businesses. The IWE supports local businesses through one-on-one business consulting services, key business workshops geared to the needs of women entrepreneurs and network-building opportunities. While welcoming men to its programs, the IWE caters to the needs of women entrepreneurs.

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