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**Sheryl Sandberg to join Viola Davis, Madeleine K. Albright and Condoleezza Rice at  
Watermark Conference for Women Silicon Valley**  
*Thousands are expected at annual event in San Jose*

**SAN JOSE, CA** – The Watermark Conference for Women Silicon Valley announced that Facebook Chief Operating Officer and "Lean In" author Sheryl Sandberg will speak at the third annual Conference on Wednesday, February 1st at the San Jose Convention Center. Sandberg joins award-winning actress Viola Davis as well as former U.S. Secretaries of State Madeleine K. Albright and Condoleezza Rice, who will participate in a conversation about the status of women in America and the world in 2017, moderated by journalist Kara Swisher, co-founder of Recode. Annie Clark, co-founder of End Rape on Campus and subject of the documentary film "The Hunting Ground," and Shawn Achor, best-selling author of "The Happiness Advantage" and record-setting TED speaker, will also headline the third annual conference, with more than 6,000 expected to attend.

Sheryl Sandberg is Chief Operating Officer at Facebook, overseeing the firm's business operations. Prior to Facebook, Sandberg was Vice President of Global Online Sales and Operations at Google, chief of staff for the U.S. Treasury Department under President Clinton, a management consultant with McKinsey & Company, and an economist with the World Bank. Sandberg is the best-selling author of "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead" and "Lean In for Graduates" and founder of LeanIn.Org, a global community committed to empowering all women to achieve their ambitions.

Other keynoters include Viola Davis, who currently stars in the hit ABC drama "How to Get Away with Murder," as well as "Fences" from Paramount Pictures. The film, starring, directed and produced by Denzel Washington, is adapted from August Wilson's play, for which she won a Tony Award. Davis has won the Critics Choice Award and a Golden Globe for the film adaptation.

Madeleine K. Albright made history as the first female Secretary of State, nominated by President Bill Clinton and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1997. Prior to her service from 1997-2001, Dr. Albright served as U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997 and as a member of President Clinton's National Security Council. Dr. Albright is the author of five *New York Times* best-sellers and she currently serves as chair of

Albright Stonebridge Group and as a professor of International Relations at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. In 2012, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

Condoleezza Rice served as the 66th Secretary of State from 2005 to 2009, only the second woman, after Albright, and the first African American woman to hold the position. Previously, Dr. Rice was the first female National Security Advisor, from 2001 to 2005, to President George W. Bush. Currently, Dr. Rice serves as Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and is a professor of political science at Stanford University, in addition to being the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution. She is also a founding partner of RiceHadleyGates, LLC.

Named one of the "Top 100" events in the San Francisco Bay Area by BizBash for its "buzz, innovation, and prominence," the Watermark Conference for Women offers an unmatched breadth and depth of speakers in fields including new approaches to leadership, gender equity and inclusion, business management, digital strategy, and personal and professional growth. The Watermark Conference will once again host the QVC + zulily Product Search, where participants will have the unique opportunity to showcase their new idea to a panel of QVC and zulily experts, and receive on-site feedback from the panel.

The Watermark Conference for Women Silicon Valley is generously underwritten by co-chair partners [Juniper Networks](#) and [Gilead Sciences](#) along with the following sponsors: [Cisco](#), [Dell](#), [Ericsson](#), [Genentech](#); [Silicon Valley Bank](#); [Akamai](#); [Bay FM](#); [Boston Scientific](#); [Johnson & Johnson](#); [QVC](#); [State Street](#); [Yahoo!](#); [Actelion](#); [Applied Materials](#); [BMW](#); [Citrix](#); [Oracle](#); [Poo-Pourri](#); [State Farm](#); [ThermoFisher Scientific](#); [United](#); [Varian](#); [Visa](#); [VMWare](#) and media sponsors [KFOG 104.5 San Francisco](#); [KGO 810](#); [KSFO 560](#); and [NBC Bay Area](#).

Registration is now open for the conference. To register or learn more about the event, visit <https://www.watermarkconferenceforwomen.org/>.

To apply for media credentials, please contact Michelle Clark, [mclark@conferenceforwomen.org](mailto:mclark@conferenceforwomen.org).

## **ABOUT WATERMARK**

Watermark is the leading community of top women executives, entrepreneurs and emerging executives in the San Francisco Bay Area whose mission is to increase the representation of women in leadership positions. The membership organization connects, develops and advocates for the advancement of women in the workplace by offering regular leadership development programs and networking opportunities and promoting gender diversity and equality initiatives. Watermark supports girls' leadership programs, as well, to help build a well-qualified workforce for the future.

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