



Press Release

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**Diane von Furstenberg, Candy Chang Join Hillary Rodham Clinton as Keynote Speakers for 2015 Lead On Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women
*All will Address Inaugural Conference in Santa Clara on Feb. 24***

Santa Clara, CA - The first annual Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women announced today that fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg and renowned artist and motivational speaker Candy Chang will be delivering keynote addresses at the inaugural event on February 24, 2015 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The Conference also will feature a keynote address by Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as remarks by former New York Times Executive Editor Jill Abramson, and motivational speaker and author Dr. Brené Brown.

The 100+ other speakers include Gayle Sheehy, New York Times best-selling author of Passages, Napa Valley vintner and celebrity host Katie Hamilton Shaffer, Stella & Dot CEO and founder Jessica Herrin, relationship expert and best-selling author John Gray, Verná Myers, a nationally recognized expert on diversity and inclusion in the legal industry, and Ellie Krieger, best-selling author and host of Food Network's & Cooking Channel's "Healthy Appetite." For a list of speakers, visit <https://www.leadonca.org/speakers/>. The list will be updated as speakers are added.

Themed "Lead On," the nonpartisan, nonprofit Conference is a unique place for women coming together to promote professional development and personal growth, to further opportunities for connections and to inspire each another. The day will feature one-of-a-kind discussions among thought leaders and industry experts about how women can rise to the top of their organizations; insight and expertise about navigating career and life transitions, and interactive sessions offering practical advice to help create and grow positive personal experiences outside the workplace. The combined offerings of Watermark and the Conference include not only the annual event in Silicon Valley, but also year-round impact in the lives of attendees, with free teleclasses, newsletters and connection to a vibrant and active community of women leaders.

The Silicon Valley Conference for Women will feature renowned experts sharing advice, knowledge and insight on current issues impacting women in the workforce. The Conference offers advancement and networking opportunities not only for women at the top of their game, but also for emerging professionals and Millennials looking to navigate new challenges and lay the foundation for a successful career. With conversations driven by Silicon Valley's top women leaders, the Conference will also raise awareness about the earning potential and opportunities in the fields of science and technology, and highlight the groundbreaking women who are leading the way.

The results of the first-ever Watermark Index to honor women-friendly companies will be announced at the conference. The index is the first of its kind, designed to highlight companies that are leading the pack with respect to inclusion, leadership and women-friendly development programs and policies, as well as to gauge trends and best practices for improving the representation of women among Bay Area employers.

Watermark is a community of executive women in the San Francisco Bay Area, whose mission is to increase the representation of women at executive levels to drive innovation, human development and economic growth. Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Watermark vision is to ensure women are able to make their mark in and for their companies, their careers and their communities by providing programs focused on connection, development and advocacy. The women of Watermark have created and led the most innovative and successful enterprises, contributing to all aspects of business, non-profits, technology, media, education, healthcare, law, government, and society. Founded in 1993 as the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs (FWE), Watermark has since expanded to include women leaders in all disciplines and industries.

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PLEASE NOTE:

Press credentials are required for media attendance.

Please email Rachel Paquin rpaquin@conferenceforwomen.org to request credentials.

For information on scheduling an interview with our speakers, please contact abluth@conferenceforwomen.org

*****ATTENDING MEDIA WILL RECEIVE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO SCHEDULE SPEAKER INTERVIEWS IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE IF POSSIBLE.***