



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Hillary Rodham Clinton to Deliver Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women**

**Santa Clara, CA** - The first annual Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women announced today that Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will deliver a keynote address at the inaugural event on February 24, 2015 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Bestselling author Brené Brown, Ph.D., and former New York Times Executive Editor Jill Abramson will also deliver keynotes. Brené Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social work and the author of two #1 *New York Times* bestsellers. Her 2010 TEDx Houston talk, *The Power of Vulnerability*, is one of the top five most viewed TED talks in the world, with over 17 million viewers. Jill Abramson is a journalist who spent the last 17 years in the most senior editorial positions at *The New York Times*, where she was the first woman to serve as Washington bureau chief, managing editor and executive editor.

“Hillary Rodham Clinton and our other speakers are role models for millions of women and girls across the globe,” said Watermark CEO Marilyn Nagel. “Watermark has been in the San Francisco Bay Area for 22 years offering programs that connect, develop and advocate for women. Secretary Clinton and our other speakers embody Watermark’s mission of advancing women in the workforce, increasing diversity and the presence of women in leadership.”

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.

Secretary Clinton, Brown and Abramson are just a few of the 100+ nationally recognized speakers at the Conference include John Gray, world-renowned expert on gender differences and best-selling author of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* and *Gender Intelligence*; Gail Sheehy, best-selling author of sixteen books, including *Passages*, named by the Library of Congress as one of the ten most influential books; Ellie Krieger, *Food Network*'s hit show host of *Healthy Appetite* and best-selling and James Beard Foundation Award nominated and best-selling author. Other speakers include Carla Harris, Wall Street Banker, award-winning executive named by *Fortune* as one of "The Most Powerful Black Executives in Corporate America" and Obama-appointed chairperson, National Women's Business Council; Sunni Brown, creator and author of *The Doodle Revolution* and named *Fast Company*'s "100 Most Creative People in Business;" Dan Schawbel, millennial and branding expert, ranked *Forbes* "30 Under 30" and *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* best-selling author of *Promote Yourself: The New Rules For Career*; Celia Tejada, lifestyle and design visionary and Chief Creative Officer of Restoration Hardware; Vernā Myers, Esq., nationally-recognized expert on diversity, inclusion and communication, and author of *Moving Diversity Forward* and *What if I Say the Wrong Thing?: 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People* and Gloria Feldt, *New York Times* best-selling author, commentator and nationally recognized advocate for women's rights.

The Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women is proud of its association with launch partners Cisco Systems and Riverbed. "We are thrilled to be celebrating the launch of the Silicon Valley Conference for Women," said Debbie Dunnam, Senior Vice President, Worldwide Services Sales and Global Customer Success for Cisco Systems, "By creating a place where women gather to make change in their lives and careers, as well as in the communities where they live and work, we can ensure attendees will leave the Conference prepared to make their mark, individually and as a community."

Registration is now open for the Conference. To register or learn more about the First Annual Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women, visit our website at [www.leadonCA.org](http://www.leadonCA.org). To apply for media credentials, please contact Julia Ballantyne, [jballantyne@leadonCA.org](mailto:jballantyne@leadonCA.org).

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