Insurance Leaders Highlight Continued Need for Inclusion, Innovation to Optimize Future Industry Success at IICF Women’s Forum in Chicago

*Industry leaders share their experiences and successful diversity and innovation initiatives to promote inclusive future of the insurance industry.*

**Chicago, July 9, 2018** – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) held its Women in Insurance Midwest Regional Forum earlier last month at the Mid-America Club in Chicago to discuss diversity, inclusion and leadership in today’s workplace. The event was met with an energized, sell-out crowd as a host of industry leaders led an outstanding agenda that focused on the topic “The Future of Work: Dream It, Define It, Do It”. Their inspirational words were met with great interest and interactivity by the audience during the June 14th event.

Dr. Jeanne Porter King, founder and president of TransPorter Group, presented on how leaders can make inclusivity a reality through their awareness of ‘intersectionality’. This could include aspects such as gender, disability and ethnicity and she stated that to be truly inclusive leaders, they must be “Intentional, Intersectional, and Interactional.” King termed this the three “I”s. She closed her speech by challenging the leaders in attendance to employ these strategies if they truly desired a fully inclusive work environment.

Kelly McDonald, best-selling author of “How to Work with and Lead People Not Like You” and owner of McDonald Marketing, used her captivating keynote speech to highlight how members of the audience and her fellow speakers could use their unique qualities and differences as a means to bridge the workplace inclusion gap.

The speakers offered insightful presentations to highlight the progress and continued need for diversity and inclusion in today’s workplace to assure a more optimized future for all workers. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Team diversity in the workplace
- The power of inclusion
- Attracting and developing talent in the industry
- Expressing passion and enjoyment for work in the industry
- Innovation to improve future customer and employee experience
“The diverse experiences that our speakers have enjoyed enabled a healthy, engaging and informative discussion on inclusion and the future of the insurance industry workplace,” said Kelly Hartweg, executive director of the IICF Midwest Division. “A common theme throughout the conference was the importance of action and modeling from us, as leaders, and how we help drive an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion, with opportunities that can be realized by everyone on our teams.”

Attendees enjoyed the forum and responded favorably to the speakers. In a post-forum survey, 96 percent of responding attendees rated the event “extremely valuable” or “valuable.” Additionally, 97 percent of respondents said they would “highly recommend” or “recommend” the Midwest Forum to others.

The proceeds from the 2018 Midwest Regional Forum benefit the IICF Midwest Community Grants Program, including grants presented to the Albany Park Theater Project and Winning Play$, and the IICF Early Literacy Initiative, which helps deliver literacy resources to children in underserved communities. Through the IICF Early Literacy Initiative, and in partnership with Sesame Workshop and insurance industry supporters, Kelly Hartweg announced a donation of 10,000 “Book Buddies” storybooks to IICF nonprofit partner Bernie’s Book Bank, which serves literacy needs of children throughout Chicagoland. Forum attendees also generously contributed to the cause through the event book drive.

The Forum in Chicago was part of the IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series. IICF hosted similar events in New York on June 7, in Dallas on June 19 and in Los Angeles on June 21. For details on the events please contact Betsy Myatt at emyatt@iicf.com or visit http://womensconference.iicf.org/. Stay tuned for registration information for IICF’s three-day Women in Insurance Global Conference, hosted in New York at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel, June 12–14, 2019.

About the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

Celebrating twenty-five years of helping communities and enriching lives, together.

The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) is a unique nonprofit that unites the collective strengths of the insurance industry to help communities and enrich lives through grants, volunteer service and leadership. Established in 1994, IICF is celebrating twenty-five years as the philanthropic foundation of the insurance industry, contributing over $31 million in community grants, along with 270,000 volunteer hours by more than 100,000 industry professionals. IICF reinvests locally where funds are raised, serving hundreds of charities and nonprofit organizations, for maximum community impact. IICF is a registered nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Learn more at www.iicf.org or follow us on Twitter @doubleicf.