Southern California Insurance Community Hosted in Los Angeles by IICF to Hear Business Case for Diversity and Inclusion Fueled by Innovation

Industry experts highlight the intersection of diversity and innovation at the IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series Luncheon

LOS ANGELES, August 25, 2017 – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) convened leaders in the Southern California insurance industry to explore the impact of innovation in fostering a fully diverse and inclusive work environment, with 200 attendees at its Women in Insurance Conference Series luncheon in Los Angeles yesterday. Discussing stimulating ideas at the intersection of diversity, inclusion and innovation, attendees at the luncheon, held at the City Club Los Angeles, were inspired around the IICF’s ongoing leadership on the topic of “The Power of Diverse Thought and Innovation”.

Two dynamic keynote speakers, leading voices in the fields of diversity and innovation in insurance, shared with the audience insight into the business case for diversity and creating an inclusive workplace through innovation. Joyce Trimuel, senior vice president and chief diversity officer of CNA, first addressed the group on ‘Diversity’s Competitive Advantage – Leveraging Diversity & Inclusion as a Business Strategy’. The idea that advancing diversity and inclusion in the workplace is not only simply the right thing to do – but that there also exists a strong business case, is viewed as a necessary component for future success. Rehan Ashroff, director of Innovation Lab, Farmers Insurance®, later spoke about ‘Fostering Innovation Through Diversity of Thought’ and provided thought-provoking commentary on creating a technologically advanced workplace through a collaborative environment welcoming of diverse thoughts.

Riki Nieman, Los Angeles branch vice president, CNA, and IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series committee member, opened the event by sharing “Every person should have the opportunity — and feel comfortable — contributing to their companies, communities and families in authentic, meaningful ways that showcase their skills” and added, “We hope everyone can carry forward today’s learnings and discussions to better our organizations and our industry.”

IICF extends sincere appreciation to the following Gold sponsors for helping to make this event possible, and bring the critical conversation of diversity, inclusion and innovation in insurance to the forefront: AmWINS, CNA, Momentus and Zenith.

“The participants were so thoroughly engaged with our speakers and the themes discussed at the luncheon,” observed Melissa-Anne Duncan, executive director of the IICF Western Division. “It was exciting to hear the calls to action for innovation in the industry, with specific emphasis on fostering diversity and inclusion through innovation. IICF is proud to host yet another platform for discussion and offer this opportunity to make valuable networking connections to help advance these important topics.”

This event is just one of many hosted each year by the IICF Western Division, which comprises philanthropically minded insurance professionals organized by boards of directors throughout California along with Arizona, Colorado and Washington Chapters, who give back generously to their local
communities through grants, volunteer service and leadership. The IICF Western Division has awarded a recorded amount of community grants in 2017, nearly $450,000, to an array of nonprofit organizations addressing critical needs in the areas of education, child abuse prevention, disaster preparedness, and health and human services.

IICF will continue to lead important industry conversations on diversity and inclusion with five regional, one-day events in June 2018, held in Chicago, Dallas, London (March), Los Angeles and New York, as part of the Women in Insurance Conference Series. Proceeds of this Conference Series fund IICF’s Early Literacy Initiative, which aims to help provide every young child the opportunity to learn, read and write – regardless of economic means. For details please visit womensconference.iicf.org.

About the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation
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 has contributed $28.7 million in community grants, along with more than 240,500 volunteer hours, to hundreds of charities and nonprofit organizations, reinvesting in local communities where funds are raised. IICF is a registered nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Learn more at www.iicf.org.

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