Women’s Leadership Forum in Dallas Highlights Importance of Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Before Sell-Out Audience of Insurance Professionals

Industry leaders encourage energized audience to embrace differences, and welcome unique voices to succeed in today’s workplace environment.

Dallas, July 12 2018 – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) led the Women in Insurance Southeast Regional Forum at the Dallas Hyatt Regency last month to a sellout crowd. The conference, with the theme of “Come as You Are... Dare to Differ” held on June 19, educated and inspired insurance professionals from across the country and offered actionable advice on how industry leaders and forum attendees can embrace their differences and be a force for change.

Keynote speaker, Dawn Miller, president and chief executive officer of AXA Insurance Company U.S., inspired and energized the audience with remarks on the importance of mentorship and paying forward mentor benefits. “If each one of us is mindful of lowering the ladder for others, we’ll help to advance the next generation of enlightened leadership and mentors, and help ensure opportunities for a diverse and inclusive workforce.” Miller also noted that a wide array of points of view will be crucial as the industry addresses important topics such as equal access to insurance products, pay gap and technology and automation, with diversity being a key driver of innovation.

“Having women leaders across a variety of industries will help enable more innovation and opportunities, not just for those individuals, but for the industries to which they contribute,” Deborah Aldredge, chief administrative officer of Farmers Insurance, said in her remarks to the audience.

Joyce Trimuel, chief operations and diversity officer, CNA, encouraged attendees to be disruptors when seeking to create a fully inclusive work environment. Disruption, she said, doesn’t need to be a negative. “Respectfully challenge, ask questions and ask why to get what you need personally and professionally from your company,” Trimuel suggested.

The forum’s speakers offered empowering, thought-provoking addresses that not only focused on embracing differences, but also touched on the importance of advancing women’s leadership roles in the workplace. Addressed topics included:

- Disruption, leadership and personal/professional growth
Knowing your value and advocating for fair pay
Exploring IQ, EQ and LQ
Daring to be different, differences matter and leading fearlessly

“Our speakers have all experienced impressive success in their individual careers and know what it truly means to embrace differences as a means to succeed,” stated Sarah Conway, executive director of the IICF Southeast Division. “I’m confident our attendees left encouraged and energized to demonstrate and impart the positive messages shared by our forum’s inspiring and remarkable speakers.”

“Be bold, be kind, and be the change,” Enya He, south central US regional director of Lloyd’s, urged forum attendees in her closing remarks. She praised the audience, telling the women and men in the room that their actions and passion would be a catalyst for positive change and help open seats at the table.

The forum was a success in the eyes of the attendees. A post-forum survey revealed that 98 percent of responding attendees found the event “extremely valuable” or “valuable.” Additionally, 97 percent of respondents said they would “highly recommend” or “recommend” the forum to others.

Proceeds of the 2018 Southeast Regional Forum benefit the IICF Southeast Community Grants Program and the IICF Early Literacy Initiative, which helps deliver literacy resources to children in underserved communities. A successful book drive was hosted at the Dallas event, where more than 400 children’s books were donated and later presented to IICF nonprofit partner ChildCareGroup, which provides childcare for little or no cost to low-income families.

The forum in Dallas was part of the IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series. IICF hosted similar events in New York on June 7, in Chicago on June 14, 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 @doubleief.