Women’s Leadership Forum in NYC Touts the Power of Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Before Sell-Out Audience of Insurance Professionals

Industry leaders and Jenna Bush Hager electrify audience as dynamic disruptors with actionable advice and offer case studies on diversity & inclusion.

NEW YORK, July 2, 2018 – The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation (IICF) convened a sell-out crowd earlier this month at its Women in Insurance Northeast Regional Forum at the Pierre Hotel to discuss diversity, inclusion and leadership in today’s workplace. More than 25 executives from insurance and related industries, along with concluding speaker Jenna Bush Hager, educated, energized and inspired the audience around the conference theme of “Dynamic Disruption: Change the Construct, Change the Conversation,” during the June 7th event.

Sophia Yen, Principal, Insurance Strategy & Innovation Leader, Financial Services, Ernst & Young, offered inspirational vision for the forum and beyond as she addressed the crowd early in the day. “If we are going to be innovative, we need to take some risks.” This applies to the industry as well as the individuals behind it. She encouraged the audience to identify their own personal board of directors to help guide them in their careers. “Find your purpose. Find your voice. Find your passion and step into the light.”

Jenna Hager Bush, a best-selling author, NBC Today Show Contributing Correspondent and Founding Chair of UNICEF’s Next Generation, offered concluding remarks sending the audience off touched by her heart-warming stories detailing how compassion and philanthropy can change lives. Bush’s remarks resonated with the audience members, many of whom are deeply committed to IICF’s philanthropic mission of helping communities and enriching lives in the form of local community grants programs and national initiatives.

This forum’s speakers offered insightful and thoughtful presentations to unite the industry in efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the workforce. Remarks and presentations offered overviews and actionable advice on a variety of relevant workforce issues:

- Individual and organization strategies for reducing gender bias
- Embracing the millennial advantage
- Leading change from the board
- Individual and organizational strategies for reducing gender bias
- Managing career transitions to fulfill potential
“Our industry-leading speakers offered a wealth of knowledge on their respective areas of expertise, as well as their personal experience dealing with challenges and opportunities related to workplace diversity,” said Betsy Myatt, Executive Director of the IICF Northeast Division and Chair of the Women in Insurance Conference Series. “We discussed our collective roles and responsibilities as individuals and leaders within in the industry in constructive and interactive platforms, and how we have the power and imperative to change the construct and conversation in advancing workplace diversity.”

Attendees responded positively to the forum and its speakers. In a post-forum survey, 100 percent of responding attendees ranked the event “extremely valuable” or “valuable.” Additionally, 100 percent of respondents said they would “highly recommend” or “recommend” the forum to others.

Proceeds of the 2018 Northeast Regional Forum benefit the IICF Northeast Community Grants Program and the IICF Early Literacy Initiative, which helps deliver literacy resources to children in underserved communities.

The forum in New York City was part of the IICF Women in Insurance Conference Series. IICF hosted similar events in Chicago on June 14, 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 information on next year’s IICF Women in Insurance Global Conference in June, in New York City.

**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](http://www.iicf.org) or follow us on Twitter @doubleicf.