

Building a Critical Mass of Women on Wall Street and Beyond: International Launch of NCRW Report

New York (October, 9, 2009) - At the **Global Meeting of the Women's Forum** in Deauville, France on October 16, the **National Council for Research on Women** and the **Jacquelyn and Gregory Zehner Foundation** will host the international launch of a groundbreaking report that pitches the business case for increasing women's leadership in the financial sector.

The report: *Women in Fund Management: a Road Map for Achieving Critical Mass - and Why it Matters*, explores gender differences in investment decision-making, including evidence that women bring a more holistic and "risk-intelligent" approach, and lays out an action plan for increasing women's involvement in decision-making.

The launch will feature NCRW President **Linda Basch**, PhD and philanthropist/former Goldman Sachs Partner and NCRW Board Member Emerita **Jacki Zehner**.

"Research shows that women bring valuable skills and insights to the table – they examine more conflicting data and tend to be more methodical and detail-oriented in decision-making. Women are also more measured in assessing risk, with an approach that takes into account the long-term as well as the short-term," said **Linda Basch**, PhD, President of the US-based National Council for Research on Women.

The NCRW report calls for building a critical mass of women's leadership identifying key barriers and offering concrete action steps and solutions including: greater access to capital; strengthening the pipeline; challenging bias and stereotypes and reforming hostile work environments; as well as expanding formal and informal networks and access to sponsors so that women can move forward, not only in the financial sector but across the economy and society.

"Money is power and we know that women have the skills and talents needed to mend our broken financial system. We need to move towards a world where women, and like-minded men, use their economic clout to drive change. This report lays out some of the key action steps needed to bring about that change," said Jacki Zehner, a Former Goldman Sachs Partner and lead architect of the report.

The briefing will take place at the Hotel Barrière Normandy in the Salon Le Maupassant on Friday, October 16, at 7:45 a.m. For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Vivienne Heston-Demirel, NCRW Director of Communications, tel: +1-212 785-7335 x201, email: vheston-demirel@ncrw.org or Nina Gidwaney, tel: +1-646 283-8852, email: nina.gidwaney@gmail.com.

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