

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## Springboard Rallies Network to Make Sure Women-Led Ventures Count 30 Organizations Sign On to Promote Startup America - WOMEN

October 25, 2011 New York City, NY – Venture Catalyst Springboard Enterprises will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Winners' Circle Celebration Dinner in New York City, a town that has seen a tremendous surge of start-up activity of late, especially those that are women-led. In a special announcement, Startup America Partnership Founding Board Member Dr. Pamela Contag and the Partnership team will announce that thirty (30) organizations representing the nation's women entrepreneurs have signed on as affiliates of a national campaign to promote the engagement of women-led high growth startups with the Startup America Partnership. The Partnership has launched an effort to provide young, high growth companies access to strategic and substantive resources from its partners Startups can apply today at [www.startupamericapartnership.org](http://www.startupamericapartnership.org) to begin utilizing these offerings.

Springboard has committed to sign up its national network of women-led companies to connect with the Partnership's corporate and financial partners. "Springboard is all about connecting high potential women-led companies to the financial and human capital they need to build big businesses starting small," said Kay Koplovitz, Chairman of Springboard Enterprises. "We are serving as a catalyst for this initiative to rally all the organizations representing women leading high growth companies. We want to make sure that women entrepreneurs are counted, participating in significant numbers and benefit from the opportunity."

Earlier that day, Springboard hosted a venture forum at The Paley Center for Media showcasing a number of the 37 women-led companies that are now part of the international network of 481 Springboard portfolio companies. Springboard has been recruiting and connecting women-led companies to investors and trusted advisors since 2000. The companies have raised over \$5.5 billion in growth capital and include in their ranks enduring brands like Zipcar, Constant Contact, iRobot and hundreds of other tech and lifesciences ventures that have become the engines for innovation and job creation.

Among the honorees to be feted at Springboard's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual dinner are Wenda Harris Millard, President of MediaLink and digital media pioneer; Meg McCarthy, EVP of Aetna in charge of innovation for the company; and Lauren Flanagan, founder of Belle Capital and one of the top 25 Angel investor in the US.

**COMPANIES PRESENTING AT SPRINGBOARD 2011 VENTURE FORUM:** Jan Bruce, Founder & CEO [meQuilibrium](#); Eloise Bune, Founder & CEO [Gracious Eloise](#); Ellie Cachette, Founder & CEO [ConsumerBell](#); Katherine de León Co-Founder & CEO [Cull TV](#); Jody Fennell, Co-Founder & CEO [Abundant Closet](#); Morgan First, Founder & CEO [Second Glass](#); Kim Folsom, Founder & CEO [ShowUHow](#); Kelly Fitzsimmons, Co-Founder & CEO [HarQen](#); Marci Harris, Founder & CEO [POPVOX](#); Susan Hunt Stevens, Founder & CEO [PracticallyGreen](#); Tracy Kobeda Brown, Founder & CEO [Evil Genius Designs](#); Jodi Marchewitz, Founder & CEO [iGuiders](#); Lynley Sides, Founder & CEO [The Glue Network](#); Therea Szczurek, Co-Founder & CEO [Radish Systems](#); Melinda Wittstock, Founder & CEO [NewsIT](#)

**The 30 STARTUP AMERICA WOMEN AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:** 85 Broads \* ACTiVATE \* Anita Borg Institute \* Astia \* BELLE Capital \* Ceres Venture Fund \* Count Me In \* DWEN \* Enterprising Women \* Girls In Tech \* Golden Seeds \* Hot Mammias Project \* Illuminate Ventures \* Inforum \* NCWIT \* NWBC \* Phenomenelle Angels \* Pipeline Fellowship \* RampCorp \* Sharp Skirts \* SheEOs \* Springboard Enterprises \* StartUpChicks \* Women2.0 \* WBDC(Chicago) \* Women's Entrepreneurial Council \* WIPP \* Women Presidents' Organization \* Women's Leadership Exchange \*

Venture Catalyst **Springboard Enterprises** is the premier platform where entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts meet to build great women-led businesses. Springboard sources, coaches, showcases and supports high growth companies seeking equity capital for product development and expansion. Since 2000, Springboard has helped 481 women-led companies raise over \$5.5 billion in equity financing, including 10 IPOs and legions of high value M&As. [www.springboardenterprises.org](http://www.springboardenterprises.org)

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