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**For Immediate Release**

**50/50 Women on Boards Houston to Host “The Houston Conversation on Board Diversity”**

*November event to offer insights, connection for diverse professionals eyeing future board seat*

**Houston, TX – August 5, 2024 ...** 50/50 Women on Boards, a national organization dedicated to fostering diversity and inclusion in corporate governance, will host “The Houston Conversation on Board Diversity” event on November 1, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Center for Philanthropy and Non-Profit Leadership (CPNL) at the Rice University Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies.

The Glasscock School location is particularly meaningful. The school’s founding dean, Mary McIntire, was the first female dean in the history of Rice University and the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies is the only school at the University named exclusively for a woman. 50/50 Women on Boards has partnered with CPNL for use of the venue in support of the board diversity event.

Research shows diverse boards deliver better decisions that reflect a company’s employees, customers, and stakeholders. However, according to the 50/50 Women on Boards Gender Diversity Index™, as of March 31, 2024, women held just 29.7 percent of board seats in the U.S., with only 12 percent consisting of gender-balanced boards, and women of color holding approximately eight percent of these influential seats. [Houston performs slightly below the national averages](#), with 27 percent of area Russell 3000 board rosters reporting women members.

50/50 Women on Boards aims to accelerate gender balance and diversity on boards of Russell 3000 Index companies, with the goal for women to hold 50 percent of the board seats and people of color to hold at least 20 percent.

Envisioned as a platform for meaningful discussions on the influential role women play in the boardroom and beyond, “The Houston Conversation on Board Diversity” event will feature a keynote panel discussion, coaching sessions and networking strategically designed to help participants develop necessary skills to secure corporate board positions and stay current on challenges facing today’s corporate boards. Corporate board directors will have the opportunity to pay it forward by mentoring women as they embark on their board journey, shaping the future of corporate leadership and fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment.

“Our strategic networking events provide women with the perfect platform for personal coaching from experienced corporate directors, peer connections, and increased visibility among industry leaders,” said Houston businesswoman Susan Knight, who brought the event and 50/50- Women on Boards organization to Houston. “If you’ve thought about serving on a board, register today for the November 1 event before seats sell out,” she said. “You’ll open the door meaningful relationships and new opportunities, as you take the first intentional step toward your board service journey.”

### **Event Highlights:**

#### **9:00 – 10:00 AM: Keynote Panel Discussion: Empowering Women and Diverse Candidates for Boardroom Success**

##### **Moderator:**

- Melody Meyer, President, Melody Meyer LLC & Women with Energy; Boards: BP, AbbVie, NOV, Inc.

##### **Featured Panelists:**

- Andy Hendricks, CEO, Patterson-UTI
- Raquelle Lewis, Director, Southeast Texas Communications, Texas Department of Transportation; Boards: CenterPoint Energy
- Lynn Elsenhans, Independent Board Director; Boards: Baker Hughes, Saudi Aramco
- Marie Myers, Executive Vice President and CFO, Hewlett Packard Enterprise; Boards: KLA Corporation

**10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coaching Sessions with Director Coaches**, representing a cross-section of industries and board experiences.

To learn more and register, go to: <https://5050wob.com/events/houston/>

In addition to regional, national and global events, 50/50 Women on Boards works year-round to facilitate creation of equitable boards that reflect the US population's diverse demographics, ensuring gender balance and diversity on boards that drives better decision-making and performance. The organization offers board training programs to empower women to seek board seats, market themselves, network to cultivate meaningful board relationships, and develop the required skills for successful board leadership; partners with corporations who want to illustrate their diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and provide women in their network the opportunity to advance; and is the first organization to transparently track the progress of public companies by publishing quarterly reports that reveal Russell 3000 company board diversity statistics.

### **About 50/50 Women on Boards:**

50/50 Women on Boards’ mission is a commitment to integrate diversity and inclusion into the fabric of corporate governance. We aim to build equitable boards reflecting the U.S. population's diverse demographics. Our goal is to ensure gender balance and diversity on boards, driving better decision-making and performance. Learn more at: <https://5050wob.com>.

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