

Press Release
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For Immediate Release



Turknett Leadership Group *Women in Leadership* Series Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary

“Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the growth, success, and longevity of our Women in Leadership program,” says Susan Hitchcock, the founder and careful nurturer of this now fifteen-year-old series of lectures for women about issues that affect women.

Given the increased “buzz and blitz” and focus around women’s leadership and career advancement over the past 15 years, TLG’s Women in Leadership seminar series truly hit the mark as an early networking, development and education vehicle. WIL recognized some of the unique challenges faced by women in the workplace even before those issues got much traction.

When asked about the beginnings of the Women in Leadership (WIL) program, Susan recalled the early years of Turknett Leadership Group when she was the VP of Client Relations. “We had a small group of female coaching clients who asked us to put together a forum just for them. They wanted Turknett to facilitate a forum in which they could discuss specific career and leadership challenges they were dealing with as women in the workplace - quite often, in male-dominated organizations. The first meetings took place in Turknett’s conference room with an invited leader to speak and attended by seven or eight TLG Executive Development clients, all high potential women.”

That small group has now grown to monthly meetings with stellar speakers who address a group of 50-70 women at a breakfast seminar series at the Commerce Club. The audience is a blend of seasoned executives and entrepreneurs, mid-career managers and professionals of all types, as well as early career women along with a few college students and interns making future connections. The atmosphere is intimate and engaging....breakfast, an inspiring speaker, and time for everyone to ask questions and network. Susan typically opens each program with a promise: “I guarantee you, you will leave inspired, informed, and invigorated.”

“WIL inspires me each and every time I attend. I walk away with at least one or two nuggets that make me a better leader. But more than that, WIL has created an amazing environment that has helped me better define what being a successful woman looks like for me and I use that knowledge every day.” **Karyn Mullins, President of Healthcare Staffing Technologies (a Jackson Healthcare company)**

Over the fifteen years, WIL has achieved some impressive numbers including:

- **188 consecutive monthly seminars** as of the end of 2018 (With 12 more scheduled beginning Jan. 25, 2019)
- **200 outstanding leader speakers**- Individual leaders and panelists - sharing thousands of life and career lessons. In 2018, speakers have ranged from *Judge Glenda Hatchett*-founder of the Hatchett Firm, *Aviva Leebow Wolmer*-CEO Pacesetter Steel Service, *Dagmar Boggs*-President of the Coca-Cola Company 7-Eleven Global Customer Team, to a panel of three women leaders in the film industry-*Lee Thomas*-Deputy Commissioner Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Georgia, *Beth Talbert*-VP Studio Operations Eagle Rock, & *Misty Holcomb*-SVP Government Relations, State-McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC, and so many more talented, successful women leaders!
- **375+ hours of leadership experience shared** from the business, nonprofit, and education sectors

- **6700+ individual attendees** including executive women and men, entrepreneurs, professionals and managers from across multiple disciplines
- **150+ leadership summaries** created - key highlights and “take aways” from some of the 16 years of WIL seminars - posted on the TLG website at www.turknett.com
- **Dozens of female college students who have attended WIL pro bono** - valuable connections for internships and future jobs

“When I think of the number of women who have been mentored and influenced by this program, I am truly proud to have been given this opportunity by Bob & Lyn Turknett, co-founders and co-chairs of the Turknett Leadership Group” says Susan. “This experience has been an investment in the future of women in business, in our local Atlanta workforce, and in our college students, including my beloved ‘Scotties’ from my alma mater Agnes Scott.”

Large and small companies and organizations hold annual WIL memberships with one or more reserved seats. Subscribers use their membership in WIL in different ways. Seats can be shared from month to month with high potentials, executives and others. Some companies use the seats for clients, some for themselves, and some to introduce a young woman to their first networking experience. Coaching clients of Turknett Leadership Group can attend the seminars as a part of their coaching program- a very popular addition to their development program. No matter how the seats are used, these seminars offer a positive, safe, engaging experience for women to learn from each other and to share experiences to help them grow as leaders.

“Being a part of Women in Leadership has been an incredible growth opportunity for me. I initially started attending WIL to broaden my professional network to include more women in leadership positions but learned the greater value of WIL is the unparalleled opportunity to interact with and learn valuable, real-world leadership skills and life lessons from some of the most talented leaders in Atlanta and beyond.

I have encouraged women at all levels of our organization to attend so they can interact with other women who are overcoming similar work-life challenges and thriving. As a direct result of my participation in WIL, we have hired two women to join our Financial Operations team in the last 18 months, and my professional network now includes at least four times more women leaders than when I attended my first meeting.” **Trey Thomas, VP-Director of Shareholder Services, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta**

“WIL is truly the highlight of my month and I always look forward to it. The speakers are amazing, bring diverse backgrounds and each is inspiring in their own way. I have had 3 memberships to WIL each year for the last 10 or more years and I rotate the seats. Certainly, we have several repeat attendees, but we try to provide the opportunity to attend to as many different AT&T employees as possible. It is hard to believe that over that period of time, we have had over 350 team members be blessed with the opportunity to be inspired, informed and invigorated. Susan Hitchcock and TLG have certainly made a difference in the lives of so many women (and a few good men) in the Atlanta community.” **Tracy L. Garner, Vice President AT&T – Internet and Entertainment Field Services, Southeast**

“The Women in Leadership Breakfast is a time of being with women and men with both like and diverse points of view. To be able to surround yourself with professionals from different business and professional experiences and transitions is priceless! And the speakers have challenged me in a way that truly Inspires me to be a better person and leader. And to Pay It Forward to those changing careers is so very important. The WIL gathering is a Safe AND Highly Effective means to open new doors for yourself and most importantly others! Thank you, Susan Hitchcock and Lyn and Bob, for opening up my mind with a lot of humor and friendship!” **Kathy Dowling, United Way Women United Advocate.**

For more information about Women in Leadership, or to purchase a subscription, contact Susan Hitchcock at susanhitchcock@turknett.com or Nancy Cranford at ncranford@turknett.com or 770-270-1723.