



4th Annual Women of Color Conference Introduces Inaugural Hall of Fame Ceremony

Las Vegas, NV (August 18, 2010) -- Five business and community leaders were inducted into the Women of Color Conference Hall of Fame during an inaugural ceremony this week. As part of the Women of Color Conference (WOC), the Hall of Fame was developed as a means to recognize individuals for their efforts that have served to empower women in their careers and in the community.

“The Hall of Fame gives us an opportunity to celebrate individuals for their trailblazing contributions to others,” said Debra Nelson, Conference Chair and MGM Resorts International Vice President Corporate Diversity & Community Affairs. “Also, we believe that public acknowledgement of these contributions will serve to inspire others to strive to reach their highest potential in life.”

The nominees were selected by a special committee that evaluated nominees based on criteria that included demonstrated efforts to help improve the quality of life for others; demonstrated time and energy expended to help others reach their full potential at work or through community volunteerism; and notable achievement, contributions and personal behaviors that deem them as role models.

The inaugural inductees were as follows:

June Beland, Founder & President, Women’s Chamber of Commerce of Nevada; Marilyn Johnson, Vice President Market Development, IBM Corporation; Dr. Debra Toney, President, National Black Nurses Association; Vida Chan Lin, President, Asian Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Sarann Knight Preddy, former business owner and entrepreneur.

The Women of Color Conference Hall of Fame is a program of the WOC, which is now in its fourth year. Initiated in 2007, the mission of WOC is to offer strategies, tactics and inspiration to enhance the personal and professional development of individuals and leaders.

According to Steve Schorr, Cox Communications Vice President Public & Government Affairs and Hall of Fame Master of Ceremonies, “For as long as the Women of Color Conference exists, new inductees will be introduced each year to recognize individuals for their contributions.”

During the ceremony Schorr introduced the special Hall of Fame trophy that is a sculpture of a woman’s body whose right hand is raised and holds a circular object representing the world.

In the future, WOC organizers will invite public nominations to help identify Hall of Fame candidates. For more information, please visit www.lvwomenofcolor.com.

Major sponsors of the 4th Annual Women of Color Conference included MGM Resorts International, Cox Communications, and IBM.