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Women of Color Conference Empowers Hundreds of Women

LAS VEGAS – August 26, 2008 – With a theme of empowerment, the 2nd Annual Women of Color Conference attracted hundreds of women to Las Vegas, Nevada, to experience workshops, keynote speeches and networking activities designed to enhance their personal and professional development. According to organizers, the success of the conference was due to its unique appeal to all races and ethnicities.

Conference creator and chair, MGM MIRAGE's Vice President Corporate Diversity & Community Affairs Debra Nelson said that despite the fact that women comprise over 50 percent of the labor force and are the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurs, the conference satisfied an unmet need in the workplace and marketplace for women to gather and benefit from each other's collective experiences.

"If we are to ensure a healthy next generation of successful employees and business leaders, we can not ignore the importance of talent development," said Nelson. "Our conference provided the opportunity for women, no matter their level of success or background, to come together, hear the experiences of others and to be affirmed as a way to learn and grow."

Holistic in its concept, the conference offered workshops on topics such as professional branding, finance, health and wellness, entrepreneurship and leadership. A roster of more than 30 women representing various industries and careers served as speakers.

A conference highlight was Nely Galan, founder of Galan Entertainment and recent contestant on NBC's "The Apprentice: Celebrity Apprentice." During the broadcast, Galan was fired by businessman Donald Trump; however, she said that the event demonstrated that "sometimes when you lose, you win." The former president of Telemundo Entertainment now shares her career trials and triumphs to inspire women across the nation. She encouraged the audience to move past their fears to achieve their dreams whether in a corporation, a small business or as an entrepreneur. According to Galan, her appearance on the television show was "out of the box" and has opened new doors of opportunity for her.

Other keynote speakers included Consuelo Castillo Kickbush, Founder, Educational Achievement Services, Inc.; Alexis Levi, Owner, CEO and General Manager of the Las Vegas Stars professional men's basketball franchise; and Linda Clemons, President & CEO of Sisterpreneur, Inc. Additionally, René Syler, former co-anchor of CBS News' "The Early Show" and an official ambassador for Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, shared her personal family struggle with breast cancer to help educate attendees on the risks of the disease.

As a corporate platform, the conference helped participating sponsors position themselves as employers of choice in an increasingly competitive labor market.

"The goal was to inspire and empower women to reach their fullest potential in every aspect of their lives," said Nelson.

The Women of Color Conference was sponsored by MGM MIRAGE, American Family Insurance and Nevada Power. For more information about the Women of Color Conference, please visit www.lvwomenofcolor.com.

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