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## **BPW Foundation Inducted as DoD Military Spouse Employment Partner Woman to Woman Mentoring and Career Guidance for Military Spouses**

Washington, DC -- [Business and Professional Women's \(BPW\) Foundation](#) was inducted as a Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partner (MSEP) at the MSEP Partner Induction Ceremony on November 5, 2013 at the Pentagon Auditorium in Arlington, VA. Signing the new MSEP Partners Statement of Support for BPW Foundation was CEO Deborah L. Frett.

"BPW Foundation is proud to join MSEP in supporting military spouses as they seek meaningful careers while balancing the challenging work-life priorities involved in living a military life," said Deborah Frett. "Through [BPW Foundation's Joining Forces Mentoring Plus®](#), military spouses will have access to free mentoring provided by volunteer working women, Subject Matter Experts for special needs, and a vast number of state-of-the-art career resources through our internet platform. In addition, we have special resources for the employment challenges faced by caregivers of Wounded Warriors.

"Military spouses, 95% of whom are women, are educated, committed, flexible, and capable of juggling multiple roles in transitional situations. Yet most remain un or under employed. Over the past several years, BPW Foundation has championed women veterans and military spouses in their efforts to succeed in meaningful careers. We have also found that serving both women veterans and military spouses is useful, since many military spouses are also veterans.

"Joining MSEP is a logical match of resources to support and provide the tools military spouses need to succeed as they face issues of job portability, frequent moves and often an absent spouse. And our unique benefit of Working Women Helping Women Work® provides these female military spouses a truly understanding helping hand," Frett said.

Current MSEP partner executives, members of Congress, military service assistant secretaries, senior military spouses of the service Chiefs of Staff and military spouse employees of MSEP companies were on hand at the commitment celebration to welcome the more than 30 new MSEP partners. Also attending for BPW Foundation was Velma Hart, BPW Treasurer, BPW Foundation Trustee and a veteran. She joined Ms. Frett and the other partners at the 2013 Annual MSEP Partner Meeting after the induction ceremony.

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***MSEP is part of DoD's broader Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) initiative , which seeks to strengthen the education and career opportunities of military spouses by providing career exploration opportunities to help them understand their skills, interests, and goals; education and training to help them identify academic, licensing, or credentialing requirements that can help them reach their career goals; employment readiness assistance to optimize their self-marketing skills; and employment connections that help them find and maintain a rewarding career. MSEP, a targeted recruitment and employment solution, creates employment connections that provide companies with direct access to military spouses seeking career opportunities and spouses with direct access to employers who are actively recruiting.***

***About BPW Foundation:*** *With a legacy dating back to 1919, BPW Foundation was the first foundation dedicated to conducting research and providing information on working women. The mission of BPW Foundation is to promote systematic change in the workplace by strengthening the capacity of*

*organizations and businesses to create environments that are inclusive and value the skills and contributions of working women, empowering them to achieve their full potential.*