



Business and
Professional
Women's
Foundation

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Clinton Global Initiative Spotlight's BPW Foundation's Career Resource and Mentoring Program for Women Veterans and Military Spouses

Washington, DC – CEO Deborah L. Frett returns to the Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI) meeting to report on Business and Professional Women's Foundation's Commitment to Action, Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus®, recognized by CGI America "as an exemplary approach to addressing challenges faced by women veterans in the small business arena."

Joining Forces Mentoring Plus® provides free employment tools and connects women veterans (all branches, eras, ranks) and military/veteran spouses with volunteer working women mentors and subject matter experts. The program, framed around "Working Women Helping Women Work®, meets these women where they are and helps them translate their military skills and build self confidence to find and keep meaningful civilian careers or start and grow their own businesses.

In the words of one woman veteran mentee: "I was empowered by the first phone call, and the connection with this organization that has the experience and professionalism to support me in facing some snags on my way toward my career goals. My first need was to build self-esteem to feel inspired to face the challenges that used to get me down and make me feel hopeless."

Expanding upon last year's CGI Commitment to Action and the formation of over 50 private and public sector partnerships, BPW Foundation is now enlisting new partners to build the "high-tech, high touch" program's financial literacy, entrepreneurial, and small business resources, as well as expand mentoring capacity to serve the current audience of 2.2 million women veterans and two million military/veteran spouses.

"Recent BPW Foundation partnerships with Alliant Credit Union Foundation, Dell-Intel, and Booz Allen Hamilton will guide the expanded commitment. These partners contribute expertise and organizational resources that address the needs and requests of those we serve," she added.

In another part of the CGI America program, Ms. Frett will share the results of BPW Foundation's recent survey of more than 500 women small business owners. This baseline data includes motivators, barriers to entry, the influence of gender, the impact of technology, as well as financing experiences and mentoring relationships. The cornerstone for future research and program development, a follow-up report will be presented at CGI 2014.

CGI America is an annual forum for leaders from the business, foundation, NGO, and government sectors to develop solutions and prompt others to take action, preparing Americans to be competitive global citizens and rethink current models that shape our economy and society. BPW Foundation CEO Deborah L. Frett will take the CGI America stage to share the updated Joining Forces Mentoring Plus® commitment at 11:15 am CST on Friday, June 14th.

BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, their families, communities, and businesses. BPW Foundation programs are built upon evidenced-based research. Joining Forces Mentoring Plus® was developed following BPW Foundation's 2005 commitment to better understand and address the employment transition needs of women veterans. BPW Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) research and education organization. To learn more, visit <http://www.bpwfoundation.org> and <http://www.joiningforcesmentoringplus.org/>.

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. Established in June 2011 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America) addresses economic recovery in the United States. CGI America brings together leaders in business, government, and civil society to generate and implement commitments to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, foster innovation, and support workforce development in the United States. Since its first meeting, CGI America participants have made more than 200 commitments valued at \$13.4 billion when fully funded and implemented. To learn more, visit cgiamerica.org.

CGI also convenes an Annual Meeting, which brings together global leaders to take action and create positive social change, CGI University (CGI U), which brings together undergraduate and graduate students to address pressing challenges in their community or around the world, and, this year, CGI Latin America, which will bring together Latin American leaders to identify, harness, and strengthen ways to improve the livelihoods of people in Latin America and around the world. For more information, visit clintonglobalinitiative.org and follow us on Twitter [@ClintonGlobal](https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal) and Facebook at facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative.

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