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BPW Foundation Participating in Veterans on Wall Street Conference CEO to Moderate Panel on Women Veterans and Mentoring

Washington, DC -- <u>Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation</u> CEO Deborah L. Frett is participating in the <u>Veterans on Wall Street (VOWS) Conference</u>, today Thursday, June 21 in New York City, and moderating a panel: "Women Veterans in Transition and Developing Effective Mentoring and Network Programs."

The one-day conference, jointly organized by Bank of America, Credit Suisse, Citi, Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs, brings together Wall Street firms, industry participants, transitioning service members, veterans seeking jobs in the financial sector, military and government leaders, military support organizations, and others who have a shared interest in veterans' employment opportunities. The goals of the conference are to raise the profile of veterans on Wall Street, educate employers about how veterans' skill sets match up with the needs of Wall Street, and highlight the financial services industry as a veteran-friendly employer.

Frett will moderate an interactive panel and presentation that will highlight the challenges women veterans face during civilian career transition, address the importance of mentoring, and provide strategies and best practices for developing and incorporating mentoring programs for women veterans in the financial workplace. Panel attendees will discus the benefits for the financial industry of having employees engage with veteran employees on a sustained basis as mentors, and Frett will introduce Wall Street attendees to BPW Foundation's *Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus*™. Launched in January, 2012, this ground-breaking program connects women veterans and military spouses with working women mentors and subject matter experts (SMEs). Participants receive free career development support and guidance to find and keep meaningful employment.

In addition to Frett, panelists include veteran Ellen Gardner, Deutsche Bank Director who retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander; Candice Mendenhall, SVP Human Resources at ICF International (and Joining Forces Mentoring Plus[™] mentor); and veteran Ginni Guiton, USO Development Office Administrator (and Joining Forces Mentoring Plus[™] mentee) who retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel.

The one-day conference is being held at the 60 Wall Street Atrium in New York City.. For more information please email: vows.network@db.com.

About Business and Professional Women's Foundation: BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, their families, communities and businesses. BPW Foundation attributes much of its success to programs built upon evidenced-based research. Joining Forces Mentoring Plus™ is the result of a commitment BPW Foundation made in 2005 to better understand the employment transition of women veterans. BPW Foundation is a 501 © (3) research and education organization. To learn more, visit http://www.bpwfoundation.org.

About <u>Veterans on Wall Street</u>: Through a combination of educational initiatives, mentoring, outreach to the military, employee affinity groups, and an annual conference, VOWS promotes career development, support, and retention of veterans throughout the global financial services industry. VOWS works with military organizations, veterans groups, industry associations and vendors to build awareness and understanding of how these skills and cultural attributes make military veterans outstanding employees.

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