



NEWS
For Immediate Release

Contact: Anna Beth Gorman
abgorman@womensfoundationarkansas.org
501-244-9740

Women's Foundation of Arkansas launches new Gender Equity Workplace Initiative
Arkansas Business reveals new Arkansas Business of the Year Award

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (October 30, 2018) – This afternoon, the Women's Foundation of Arkansas (WFA) launched its new Gender Equity Workplace Initiative at the Clinton School of Public Service. This initiative works to provide a Gender Equity Scorecard, equipping businesses in Arkansas with the ability to evaluate the current state of gender equity in their workplace. The event included a panel of representatives from participating businesses, including Arvest Bank, Arkansas Business Publishing Group and Mangan Holcomb Partners/Teams SI.

"The Women's Foundation of Arkansas is proud to spearhead this initiative for workplace equity in our state. By providing businesses a tool for evaluation, we facilitate understanding and start the process of making our workplaces more equitable," said Anna Beth Gorman, Women's Foundation of Arkansas executive director. "This simple self-evaluation can be the catalyst for improvements in businesses across our state."

The event was held as part of the Clinton School of Public Service's Speaker Series. Business leaders who were among the first to participate in the Gender Equity Workplace Initiative took part in a panel discussion, moderated by Anne Preston, television news anchor. These individuals included Sharon Tallach Vogelpohl, principal/president of Mangan Holcomb Partners/Team SI; Madeline Moore, Human Resources manager with Central Arkansas Arvest Bank; and Chris Bahn, publisher for Arkansas Business Special Publications. Bahn revealed there will be a new "Arkansas Business of the Year Award" designated to recognize an equitable workplace in Arkansas.

"After exploring our own scorecard, we realized there was a need to recognize businesses in Arkansas that are achieving a high level of workplace equity," said Bahn. "There's no doubt this is something worth applauding."

The event was introduced by Mariella Hernandez, a Clinton School of Public Service student who was part of the team that created the Gender Equity Scorecard alongside the Women's Foundation of Arkansas.

The Women's Foundation of Arkansas is now recruiting businesses from across the state to join the beta cohort and take the next step toward equity in their workplaces. Go to WomensFoundationArkansas.org and click on the Women Empowered tab to request the Gender Equity Scorecard.

The Gender Equity Scorecard will allow Arkansas businesses to evaluate the current state of gender equity in their workplaces. After a business completes the Scorecard, a Gender Equity Score will be given. This score will make businesses aware of possible improvements to be made, as well as illuminate areas of current success.

About the Women's Foundation of Arkansas

Women's Foundation of Arkansas' (WFA) mission is to promote and foster programs, activities and opportunities that expand and strengthen the roles of women and girls in Arkansas. It is the only statewide foundation that focuses solely on improving their academic, economic and social well-being. To fulfill this mission, WFA serves as a grant-maker, a convener and a resource on the status of women and girls. It is the WFA's belief that improving their lives not only advances gender equity, but also improves the health and wealth of families, communities and the state as a whole. Learn more at WomensFoundationArkansas.org.

In addition to the Girls of Promise® Conference, WFA regularly organizes coding summits for middle school and high school girls, film screenings, speaker series and panels that highlight issues important to advancing the status of women. WFA also conducts and publishes research in areas such as educational attainment, socio-economic circumstances, health, workforce participation, careers and barriers to success. As a grantor, WFA awards funding to organizations serving women and girls across Arkansas. Learn more at GirlsofPromise.org.

###