



News Release

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Dr. Ann Blackburn Named to National Women's Business Council *Federal Appointment for Lafayette, CA-based Businesswoman*

Washington, DC – Dr. Ann Blackburn, President and Owner of Lafayette, CA-based Blackburn Advisory Services, has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council. As a member of the Board of Directors, Blackburn will represent Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) on the Council. Her company, 5-year old Blackburn Advisory Services, provides organizational advisory services and strategic planning to private and public sector clients.

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council that serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. The Council's mission is to promote bold initiatives, policies and programs designed to support women's business enterprises at all stages of development in the public and private sector marketplaces -- from start-up to success to significance. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations.

"I am delighted to welcome Dr. Ann Blackburn to the National Women's Business Council," said Tami Longaberger, Chair of the National Women's Business Council and Chair and CEO of The Longaberger Company. "Ann's extensive experience as a community leader and business owner will be a valuable asset to the Council. I'm confident the Council's work on behalf of women-owned businesses will be enriched by her participation and I look forward to working with her to advance the priorities of women entrepreneurs."

Women Impacting Public Policy is a national bi-partisan public policy organization representing more than 505,000 women in business and women business owners nationwide. In addition to her contributions to WIPP, Blackburn is a member and facilitator for the Women Presidents' Organization, a board member of the California Women's Leadership Association, and a past president/director of Commercial Real Estate Women of San Francisco and the National Network Commercial Real Estate Women. With over 29 years of experience in the public and private

sectors, Blackburn provides consulting services to organizations which are anticipating or experiencing change through a sustained program of collaborative innovation and strategic planning combined with accountability and benchmarking. Blackburn has extensive experience in mid-size growth companies and the corporate sector, including roles as CEO/President of a company with one billion in assets, Project Manager for high rise development projects in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and Deputy Director of Real Estate for the Presidio Trust in San Francisco.

“I am honored to be given the opportunity to represent the nation’s women business owners as WIPP’s representative on the National Women’s Business Council,” said Blackburn. “I look forward to working with other members of the Council to promote growth in the women’s business community and to bring the voice of women entrepreneurs to the President, Congress and the SBA.”

As the nation's advocate for the more than 10.6 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women’s Business Council works to promote increased access to affordable health care, access to capital, access to federal contracts and international markets, and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed. Women-owned businesses currently represent nearly half (48%) of all U.S. firms, employing 19.1 million people and generating nearly \$2.5 trillion in sales.

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