

Corporate Contact:
Ying Wong
Vice President
Human Resources
SourceMedia
212-803-8787

For Immediate Release

INSURANCE NETWORKING NEWS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2012 WOMEN IN INSURANCE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Recognizes 10 Leaders Who Significantly Improved Their Companies' Operations

CHICAGO, July 23, 2012 - *Insurance Networking News (INN)*, a SourceMedia brand, today announced the winners of this year's Women in Insurance Leadership (WIL) Awards. The WIL Awards recognize female insurance executives who have made outstanding contributions to their businesses.

Since its debut seven years ago, *INN's* Women in Insurance Leadership Awards series has profiled the extraordinary accomplishments of more than 50 professionals whose leadership and performance have redefined the insurance business and its application of technology.

"*INN* is proud to recognize female leaders who are paving the way for others in the insurance industry," said *INN* Editor-in-Chief Carrie Burns. "This year's honorees again prove that women can positively affect critical processes within the IT and business environments of their organizations."

The 2012 Women in Insurance Leadership honorees are:

- Laura Bennett, CEO and Co-Founder, Embrace Pet Insurance (nominated by Alexander J. Wayne & Associates)
- Tricia Griffith, Claims Group President, The Progressive Group of Insurance Companies (nominated by The Progressive Group of Insurance Companies)
- Heather Lavalley, President, Employee Benefits Distribution, ING U.S. Insurance (nominated by ING U.S. Insurance)
- Robin Lenna, Executive Vice President, Corporate Benefit Funding, MetLife (nominated by The Jacobson Group)
- Seraina Maag, Chief Executive, North America Property & Casualty, XL Group, Insurance (nominated by FirstBest Systems and P&C Insurance Systems)
- Beth Mercier, Vice President, Personal Lines, Travelers (nominated by IASA)
- Jacqueline Morales, Senior Vice President, Retirement Services Solutions, AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (nominated by Robert E. Nolan Company)
- Noreen Randazzo, Vice President and CIO, Enterprise Solutions, The Hartford Financial Services Group (nominated by The Hartford Financial Services Group)
- Peggy Rubin, Executive Vice President and COO, Columbian Mutual Life Insurance Company (nominated by Sapiens)
- Mary Springberg, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Allstate Financial Technology, Allstate Financial (nominated by CSC)

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Any insurance organization or IT company serving the industry can enter a nomination. Candidates are judged on their performance as well as their overall organizational influence. Each nominee is rated on her job complexity, ability to innovate, management style, and her team's contribution to corporate earnings, among other criteria.

A judging panel of four 2011 WIL winners made this year's final selections. The judges were Janice Abraham, President and CEO, United Educators Insurance; Judy Davis, EVP, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, BlueCross BlueShield of S.C.; JoAnn Martin, Chair, President and CEO, Ameritas Holding; and Kathy Owen, SVP and CIO, Unum.

In-depth profiles of all 10 WIL winners will be posted to the *INN* website (www.insurancenetworking.com) and printed in *INN*'s September/October 2012 edition.

Winners also will be recognized at *INN*'s 5th Annual Women in Insurance Leadership Forum (<http://www.insurancenetworking.com/conferences/wil/>), which will be held on Oct. 17-18, 2012, at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg in Schaumburg, IL. The theme of the event is the advancement and professional growth of women in insurance. American Insurance Association CEO Leigh Ann Pusey will keynote the educational event, which will feature sessions on IT best practices and leading innovation. The Leadership Forum also provides an opportunity for insurance executives to network with their peers.

For more information on the Women in Insurance Leadership profiles and selection process, contact *INN* Editor-in-Chief Carrie Burns, carrie.burns@sourcemedia.com. For more information on the Women in Insurance Leadership Forum, contact *INN* Publisher Holli Gronset, holli.gronset@sourcemedia.com.

About *Insurance Networking News*

Insurance Networking News is a trusted source for information on how technology is being implemented to support insurers' strategic business objectives, providing insightful analysis of the technology innovations utilized to automate critical processes. *Insurance Networking News* is written to help senior insurance executives obtain mission-critical information on resolving industry challenges.

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