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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women's Inter-cultural Exchange to host annual conference/luncheon this Thursday *Organization announces a new leadership model on heels of multi-cultural event*

Charlotte, N.C. – (9/8/2014) With a continued focus on its mission of “building trust and social capital among women of diverse cultures,” Women’s Inter-cultural Exchange welcomes several influential speakers and guests to its annual Multi-Cultural Conference & Luncheon this week. The focus of this year’s event, “Making Our Mark: Women Leading Change Around the Globe,” further illustrates the eight-year effort by the Charlotte-based nonprofit to increase cultural awareness and highlight women-leading initiatives.

The 2014 Keynote Speaker is Joan Bradley Wages, President and CEO for the National Women’s History Museum in Washington, D.C. – an organization dedicated to illuminating the role of women in transforming society. Her luncheon remarks will complement discussion by other planned speakers, which include Connie Lindsey, EVP and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility/Global Diversity and Inclusion at Northern Trust in Chicago, and Debra Plousha Moore, Chief Human Resources Officer and EVP with Carolinas HealthCare System.

“Joan is not only a strong female leader, but she works tirelessly every day to recognize and emphasize the vital roles women play in our society,” said WIE Co-Founder Stephanie Counts. “Her comments will highlight this year’s conference and its theme very well.”

The event – Sept. 11, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Charlotte Convention Center – also features a panel discussion by five North Carolinian leaders – including four men – about the increasingly critical leadership roles women are filling across all segments of the job market, and the men who support and welcome this female-led direction.

Counts added, “This year’s event, more than years previous, is about progress and change. Not only is WIE continuing to take leaps through continued vital dialogue about cultural issues, multi-cultural needs and bridging awareness gaps in Charlotte and beyond, but we’re officially announcing leadership changes this week that will impact the future of our own organization as well. We’re sharing how WIE is striving to continue its mission and vision with impact.”

WIE was co-founded in 2006 by Dee Dixon and Stephanie Counts. Counts has acted as CEO of the organization since that time. Today, Counts undertakes a new position as Founding CEO



and Vision Keeper, a role in which she will continue as organization spokesperson and seek opportunities for expanding WIE. Assuming the position of CEO is Bert Harper, former senior executive with Bank of America and past WIE Board Chair. The organization's new Board Chair is Joy Paige Springs, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Johnson C. Smith University. She recently remarked on the WIE leadership changes.

“Stephanie, Bert and I look forward to working collaboratively to sustain the WIE vision and mission and continue to build the organization,” said Springs.

She added, noting the upcoming Conference & Luncheon and hopes for its success in 2014.

“The conference will be engaging and inspiring for all attendees,” said Springs. “Women of all ages, backgrounds and leadership levels will have the opportunity to interact with each other to maximize their leadership potential and find ways to empower others.”

About Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange

The Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange, founded in 2006, builds bridges of social capital among women of diverse cultures, fosters cross-cultural awareness and develops infrastructure for community dialogue, engagement and programs. For more information, visit www.wi-ce.org.