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Women Moving from the C-Suite to For-Profit Board Rooms

-- United Way Women's Leadership Council, Western & Southern Financial Group support placing women on corporate boards --

CINCINNATI — Jan. 31, 2008 — More than 70 women from 46 companies in the Tri-State region attended United Way of Greater Cincinnati's Women's Leadership Council Conference to identify best practices for placing women on corporate boards and forging leadership opportunities within the community. The conference was presented in conjunction with Western & Southern Financial Group® (Western & Southern), Procter & Gamble, US Bank, and Baker Hostetler.

John F. Barrett, chairman, president and chief executive officer at Western & Southern, delivered a well-received message to Cincinnati's leading female executives. He encouraged them to play an active role in attracting and retaining Fortune 500 companies as well as shaping the future of Cincinnati.

"In Cincinnati, we are fortunate to have 10 Fortune 500 companies with headquarters here. The opportunity for women to lead through for-profit boards in Cincinnati is amazing," Barrett said. "Today, you can move forward in fulfilling your personal and professional dreams by making a difference within business and within our community. This room is filled with top-level talent and the expertise to get the job done."

Keynote speakers included Constance Armstrong, executive director of The Boston Club; Terry Barclay, president and chief executive officer of Inforum in Detroit; and Toni Wolfman, executive in residence for the Women's Leadership Institute at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass. Each of the speakers presented key findings on the status of women in the board room and then provided insights on ways that women can distinguish themselves in preparation for possible board positions.

According to Armstrong, the increasing economic clout of women as consumers and investors, as well as their place in the workforce, has provided them with an acute sense of leadership that is linked to company performance and effective decision making.

“Despite the progress women have made, there are still relatively low percentages of female directors, executive officers and top compensated officers. The percentage of companies without female leadership in the for-profit board room is still high,” Armstrong said. “Keys to success are to maintain a robust portfolio of services and knowledge company leaders can tap; participate in business and civic opportunities that engage company leaders; and provide innovative ideas that stand out (or set you apart).”

United Way's Women's Leadership Council brings women together as a unique driving force and inspires them to ignite their passion for leading change in the community. To become a member, a woman is asked to commit a gift of \$10,000 or more in her name to UWGC. Currently there are more than 150 members, making Cincinnati's WLC one of the top five in the country. The WLC was formed in 2001.

About Western & Southern Financial Group®

Western & Southern Financial Group (Western & Southern) is a Cincinnati-based diversified family of financial services companies with assets owned, managed and under our care in excess of \$47 billion. A Fortune 500 company, Western & Southern has received A.M. Best's highest rating of A++ Superior for financial strength, Standard & Poor's AA+ rating (one of the 10 highest rated life insurance groups in the world) and is consistently recognized by Moody's and Fitch for financial strength and sound management. With a heritage dating to 1888, the group's affiliates include The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Western-Southern Life Assurance Company, Capital Analysts Incorporated,^{1,2} Columbus Life Insurance Company, Eagle Realty Group, LLC, Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc.,¹ Fort Washington Savings Company,³ IFS Financial Services, Inc., Integrity Life Insurance Company, The Lafayette Life Insurance Company, National Integrity Life Insurance Company, Todd Investment Advisors, Inc.,¹ Touchstone Advisors, Inc.,¹ and Touchstone Securities, Inc.² For more information, visit www.westernsouthern.com. Western & Southern is the title sponsor of the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters and Women's Open tennis tournaments.

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