

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FWA of New York and The Central Exchange of Kansas City Join ION**

Ten U.S. Regions Track Women's Progress As Corporate Leaders

BOSTON, February 19...ION, the Inter Organization Network, announced two new members, the Financial Women's Association of New York (FWA) and The Central Exchange of Kansas City, Missouri. ION ([www.ionwomen.org](http://www.ionwomen.org)), which was founded in 2004, is a consortium of women's business organizations from across the country that works to advance women to positions of leadership, particularly on the boards of directors and in the executive suites of the nation's largest public companies.

FWA of New York published its first report on women leaders, The FWA 100 2006, in December. Its findings showed that the 100 largest companies in the New York metropolitan area had more women directors than companies in the Fortune 500 nationally, but that was still only 16.6 percent of all directors. The Central Exchange published its report, Women's Executive Leadership Census 2007 in November. It found that in the Fortune 1,000 companies in Kansas and Missouri, women held only 11.9 percent of the board seats.

Commenting on ION's two newest members, Toni Wolfman, president of ION said, "ION's national influence is growing. We have increased our network of qualified women to serve on corporate boards, have strengthened our ability to effect change, and together, represent almost 5,000 executive and professional women"

Each member of ION publishes an annual census on the status of women directors and executive officers of public companies in their respective regions. Each year, ION publishes a national report, summarizing the regional findings. The national report provides a snapshot on the progress made by women in corporate leadership positions across the regions, and looks for national trends.

Members use a common methodology. Data for the reports comes from proxy statements (DEF 14A), annual reports (Form 10-K) and current reports (8-K) that public companies with headquarters file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The individual reports differ in terms of the number of companies they include and the extent of the geographic area they encompass.

ION will issue its 2007 report in early March.

ABOUT ION: The InterOrganization Network (ION) is a consortium of women's business organizations that work to increase the number of women on the boards and in executive offices of public companies. ION, which receives financial support from KPMG LLP, has ten members, in California, Chicago, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Philadelphia and Wisconsin. These organizations have joined together to leverage their strength and to increase their individual and aggregate influence in order to boost the number of women who comprise the leadership of corporate America.

**ION Members:**

Board of Directors Network

The Boston Club

The Central Exchange

The Chicago Network

Forum for Women Entrepreneurs and Executives /University of California Davis

The Forum of Executive Women

FWA New York

Inforum Center for Leadership

Milwaukee Women Inc.

Women Executive Leadership