

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**TEXAS SEES INCREASE OF WOMEN IN EXECUTIVE POSITIONS***2010 Census of Texas Women in the Board Room: Study by The Board Connection*

(Dallas, TX) – **JULY 11, 2011** – The Board Connection, in partnership with KPMG LLP, conducted the second annual study, “**Expanding Our Reach: The Board Connection’s 2010 Census of Texas Women in the Board Room**” that delivers a broader view of women holding corporate board seats and executive positions in FORTUNE 1000 companies throughout Texas.

The 2010 TBC Study of Women Directors and Executive Officers for Texas is based on the 97 companies Texas considered as FORTUNE 1000. The KPMG Market Research team compiled the data for the study from the most recent Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including annual reports (form 10-Ks) and Proxy statements (DEF 14A’s). For the majority of companies, the most recent filing was as of fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.

Positive trends noted for Dallas Fort-Worth women serving on corporate boards:

- FORTUNE 500 companies in DFW with **no** women directors on their governing boards **decreased dramatically** from 33 percent in 2009 to just 10 percent in 2010.
- The number of DFW women serving on FORTUNE 500 boards now **exceeds the national average**.
- At Sysco, Texas Instruments, and AT&T, **women comprise more than 30 percent** of the board seats.
- At Benchmark Electronics, jcpenny, and Fluor, women comprise more than 25 percent of the board seats.

“As a responsible organization focused on delivering great style at compelling prices to half of America’s families each year, appointing leaders who understand our business as well as our 80% female customer base, is vital to J.C. Penney’s continued brand transformation. Additionally, we recognize that providing direct leadership roles for women is an important catalyst for other organizations to model,” stated Burl Osborne, former chairman of the board of The Associated Press and current chair of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee of J. C. Penney Company, Inc’s Board of Directors.

Across Texas, however, real challenges remain:

- Only 11% of director seats in FORTUNE 100 companies in Texas are filled by women, which is below the national average 14%.
- 73% of companies of Texas companies have **no** women executive officers.
- Only 5 percent of top company executives are women.
- Only 2.2% of board seats held women of color.
- DFW FORTUNE 1000 companies saw a 2010 **decrease** over the 2009 percentage of women among top earning executive officers.
- The energy industry has the lowest percentage of women on boards.

“The Board Connection (TBC) was launched to increase the visibility of accomplished women executives to serve as corporate directors and executive suites which benefit from the leadership and perspective of a diverse board of directors,” states Melisa Denis, president of The Board Connection and partner, KPMG. “The percentage of women in these roles has been stalled for over a decade. Corporate boards pursuing best practices in board searches are coming to The Board Connection to access our growing pipeline of qualified candidates. The Board Connection’s online portal (www.theboardconnection.org/membership) is a



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strategic resource, attracting women with a broad range of backgrounds across DFW to our membership,” continues Denis.

The complete study is available at: http://theboardconnection.org/media/TBC_Census2010.pdf

Established in 2009, The Board Connection identifies, educates, and connects qualified Texas women executives to opportunities for corporate board positions. As the pipeline of qualified female board candidates continues to grow, TBC is accelerating its efforts to provide the resources and opportunities for the candidates to further their network and gain board readiness. In 2010 The Board Connection increased its reach as they joined InterOrganization Network (ION), a national alliance of 14 women’s business organizations working to effect change in public policy and increase diversity in corporate boards. Learn more about the qualifications for membership and The Board Connection events at www.theboardconnection.org.

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