



## YWCA SIOUX FALLS PRESS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Erin Bosch, YWCA  
Director of Women's Leadership  
(605) 336-3660  
[ebosch@ywca-sf.org](mailto:ebosch@ywca-sf.org)

Catherine Forsch  
Director of Marketing  
(605) 336-3660  
[cforsch@ywca-sf.org](mailto:cforsch@ywca-sf.org)

### YWCA and Junior League Launch New Women's Leadership Program

Sioux Falls, SD (September 28) - YWCA Sioux Falls unites with Junior League of Sioux Falls to launch the new YWCA Women's Leadership Program. Designed by leaders in the community, the YWCA Women's Leadership program will accept 18-24 women as participants (protégés).

The focus of the program is to utilize the personal experiences and skills of area women leaders to educate and inspire young women. Through a series of six training sessions, the participants (protégés) will develop an individual success plan that includes personal and professional goals and ways to achieve them. A mentor will be matched with the participant (protégé) to support and guide her through the implementation of her plan during the next year. The program is open to women of all ages who are interested in progressing to the next level of leadership.

In a press conference today, Laurie Knutson, YWCA Sioux Falls, CEO announced, *"Today, we are pleased to announce the launch of the YWCA Women's Leadership Program. A program that allows women to extend a hand up to each other, in a pay-it-forward / leave a legacy sort of way, through group discussions on key topics, the development of a personal leadership plan, and through mentorship."*

*"Throughout the program, the participants will reap the knowledge of many leaders and they will learn from each other. This 'real-world' learning approach is unique and is a direct response to what young up-and-coming female leaders are seeking",* says Knutson

This program is a service project of Junior League of Sioux Falls. The collaboration furthers the mission of both YWCA Sioux Falls and Junior League of Sioux Falls to enrich the lives of women and empower them to make themselves and Sioux Falls a stronger community.

Applications are now being accepted for mentors and protégés and the first class will start in January, 2012. For more information on the program go to [www.ywca-sf.org/leadership](http://www.ywca-sf.org/leadership) or contact Erin Bosch, Director of Women's Leadership, at YWCA (605) 336-3660.

Registration deadline for protégés: Friday, November 16, 2011 at 5:00pm

Cost: \$325 per participant (actual value exceeds \$1800)

Commitment: Participants are expected to attend the retreat and all sessions.

Applications available: Online at [www.ywca-sf.org/leadership](http://www.ywca-sf.org/leadership) or

Pick up an application at YWCA Avera Downtown, 300 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Sioux Falls, SD

(A brochure is available online [www.ywca-sf.org/leadership](http://www.ywca-sf.org/leadership) outlining information on the January retreat and six sessions.)

Registration deadline for mentors: Open now - February 16, 2012.

Qualifications for mentors: The YWCA is looking for successful females in the Sioux Falls area who have a passion for the development of others, and want to extend a hand to up-and-coming women leaders. Commitment is a minimum of once a month for 12 months.

Accolades from community members:

*"The YWCA's new Women's Leadership Program is a wonderful way to pass along the legacy of women leaders in the community." -Margaret Sumption, Sumption & Wyland, Owner*

*"This is Sioux Falls' first leadership program focused specifically on younger women. It's a terrific opportunity for growth and learning." - Jessica Peterson Deneui, Past YWCA Board Member*

*"Leadership and mentoring programs help communities build its resource of dedicated and enthusiastic leaders. The YWCA is positioned to enhance the personal and professional success and tap the talent of young women in our community." – Kate Foley, Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Small Business & Leadership Development Manager*

#### **About YWCA Sioux Falls**

For 90 years, the YWCA Sioux Falls has been an active community partner offering quality and affordable programs, services and opportunities meeting the needs of women and their families. Through a variety of programs we have a positive impact on our community: Aquatics & Water Safety, Health and Fitness, Licensed Childcare, Before & After School Care, KinderCollege – elite preschool, Women's Leadership Program, Youth Recreation, and Girls on the Run/Girls on Track. YWCA Sioux Falls is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information call (605) 336-3660 or go to [www.ywca-sf.org](http://www.ywca-sf.org).

#### **YWCA Women's Leadership Program Mission:**

To facilitate the development of emerging female leaders by utilizing the experiences and skills of established women; to extend a hand-up to young women who will follow.

#### **About Junior League of Sioux Falls**

YWCA Women's Leadership Program is a service project of Junior League of Sioux Falls.

The Junior League of Sioux Falls, Inc. (JLSF) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Celebrating its 33rd year in 2011, JLSF's purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. JLSF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and member of the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. More information can be found at [www.JLSiouxFalls.org](http://www.JLSiouxFalls.org) or by calling (605)336-9469.



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