

**For Immediate Release**

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**Women Entrepreneurs Standing On The Peak Of All Possibilities**  
*Springboard Entrepreneurs Convene At First National Caucus*

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI • June 13, 2006** – On June 13 – 14, venture-catalyst Springboard Enterprises will convene its first national alumnae caucus. Selected from an applicant pool of 3500, 347 Springboard alumnae with a passion for the high risk/reward world of entrepreneurship have presented their businesses to investors at the 16 Springboard Venture Forums hosted since early 2000. The event will be hosted at the Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City, ‘the foundation of entrepreneurship’ and a leading patron of Springboard and high growth-oriented entrepreneurial programs nationwide.

“We launched Springboard as a pipeline for generating billions of dollars in equity capital for *bold women with big ideas*,” says Kay Koplovitz, Springboard Board chair and founder of USA Networks. “Six years, \$3.5 billion raised, 347 women-led businesses showcased, thousands of investors, accountants, bankers, lawyers involved - and it’s time to celebrate the success of our mission and, with our alumnae and patrons, take our collective victory lap.”

During the two days of the event, the alumnae will participate in discussions about their experiences founding and leading emerging growth businesses, their relationships with investors and board members, and the business of possibilities. Featured speakers include: Sharon Patrick, co-founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia; The Directors’ Council; the Honorable Kay Barnes, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri; Robert Litan, the Kauffman Foundation; Steve LeFever, Business Resource Services; and the Springboard alumnae.

“Springboard has given my colleagues and me the opportunity to create, launch, finance and lead big ideas that have already had a significant impact of the market. I am honored to be a continuing part of this organization that has in only six years grown to be a global tour de force among investors and entrepreneurs,” says Springboard alumna Pamela Contag, founder and President of Xenogen [Nasdaq: XGEN]. “Springboard has given us all so much. We are passionate about giving back by empowering other women entrepreneurs to take the lead and

share in the rewards of their ventures,” adds alumna Lauren Flanagan, founder of Phenomenelle Angels Fund and CEO of SCIO Corp.

Springboard is backed by a large network of prominent investors, accountants, bankers, attorneys, entrepreneurial, academic and business organizations. “We have a large stake in the success of entrepreneurial ventures,” says Cal Hackeman, Springboard patron and National Managing Partner of Grant Thornton's Technology Industry Practice. “We are committed to building relationships with Springboard’s outstanding women-led companies to provide the personalized attention and highest quality of service we deliver to all of our clients.”

Lynn Pike, President of Business Banking, Bank of America, a Springboard patron, states, “The challenge for all of us is not just to support entrepreneurs but to be entrepreneurial in providing services and solutions that meet their needs. At Bank of America, we are all about adding value to our business clients and helping them increase their profitability.”

### **About Springboard Enterprises**

SPRINGBOARD ENTERPRISES is a national non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating women's access to the equity markets. The organization produces programs that educate, showcase and support entrepreneurs as they seek equity capital and grow their companies. Springboard Caucus Sponsors include the Kauffman Foundation, Grant Thornton LLP, Bank of America, American Express, Foley and Lardner LLP, Ascend Ventures and Phenomenelle Angels.

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