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Massachusetts Conference for Women Announces Arianna Huffington as 2012 Keynote Speaker
Huffington to present to thousands at state's largest annual Conference for Women

Boston, MA, June 6, 2012 – Arianna Huffington, one of *TIME* magazine's 100 most influential people in 2011 and president of the Pulitzer Prize winning Huffington Post Media Group, will be a keynote speaker at the 8th Annual Massachusetts Conference for Women. Huffington will speak to this year's theme, 'Imagine,' alongside other nationally recognized speakers like Vera Bradley co-founder Barbara Bradley Baekgaard and 'Good Morning America' workplace contributor and CEO of Women For Hire and Spark & Hustle Tory Johnson.

Registration is now open for the Conference, which will be hosted at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on Thursday, December 6, 2012. The nonpartisan, nonprofit Conference is Massachusetts' largest event designed specifically for women, attracting more than 7,000 attendees each year. Women are invited from across the state to convene for a full day of networking, professional development and personal growth opportunities.

Huffington and other speakers will share their wisdom and expertise on a wide range of topics including career advancement, money management, health and wellness, small business and entrepreneurship, social media branding and more. This year's Conference theme 'Imagine' encourages attendees to find their path to purpose and make a difference.

In May 2005, Arianna Huffington launched *The Huffington Post*, a news and blog site that quickly became one of the most widely read publications. In 2006, and again in 2011, she was ranked on *TIME* 100, *TIME* magazine's list of the world's 100 most influential people. Huffington has also written countless titles including the most recent, "Third World America." She also serves on several boards that promote community solutions to social problems, including A Place Called Home, which works with at-risk children in South Central Los Angeles. Additionally, Huffington serves on the board of EL PAÍS and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

"Since its inception in 2005, the Massachusetts Conference for Women has grown dramatically and enlists powerful speakers," said Alison Quirk, Board Member of the Massachusetts Conference for Women and an executive vice president at State Street Corporation. "We are thrilled to host Arianna Huffington, Barbara Baekgaard, and Tory Johnson at this year's Conference since each of these three women have served as a dynamic force in their respective industries."

In years prior, attendees have benefited from the talent and wisdom of such trailblazers as women's

rights pioneer **Gloria Steinem**; celebrated poet, author, educator and historian **Dr. Maya Angelou**; Texas' second female Governor **Ann Richards**; judge and television personality **Glenda Hatchett**; model, entrepreneur, spokesperson, advocate and filmmaker **Christy Turlington Burns**; personal finance expert **Suze Orman**; life coach and author **Martha Beck**; and many more. Additional 2012 speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

Exclusive to the Massachusetts Conference for Women, Local Leader Meet Ups offer attendees the chance to have one-on-one conversations with local businesswomen and community leaders, and intimate Expert Exchange sessions offer a focused discussion with industry veterans. Conference attendees also have the opportunity to participate in the popular Career Pavilion, featuring resume reviews by human resource experts, Mentor Match (one-on-one "speed mentoring" sessions with local career coaches and executives), workshops on communication skills and social media, and much more.

The Conference Health & Wellness Pavilion showcases speakers and companies dedicated to improving women's health, while an onsite Exhibit Hall boasts hundreds of organizations and companies with products or services that appeal to women.

The Conference for Women is presented by State Street and co-chaired by EMD Serono and Cisco. It is also generously underwritten by dozens of corporations including AARP, ableBanking, Bentley University, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Hill Holliday, John Hancock, Liberty Mutual Insurance, National Grid, Raytheon, Tufts Health Plan, Visa, and Weber Shandwick.

An early bird rate of just \$135 per person, \$260 for a group of two and \$70 for students is available through June 6. To register or learn more about the 8th Annual Massachusetts Conference for Women, visit our website at www.MAConferenceForWomen.org, follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/-/masswomen>, or like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/maconferenceforwomen>.

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