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### **Second Annual Women's Leadership Summit an Overwhelming Success**

**Charleston, W.Va.** – The second annual Women's Leadership Summit of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce was an overwhelming success filled with messages of possibility, inspiration and empowerment. The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce's *Women's Leadership Summit: Women Paving the Way to a Diverse West Virginia* was held on December 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This conference of women leaders in West Virginia focused on the importance of creating a more diverse and inclusive atmosphere in West Virginia while also focusing on the importance of relationships, collaboration, hard-work and self-confidence.

The overall message of the conference was one of positivity and possibility. The two-day Women's Leadership Summit brought over 200 people together, from virtually all industries of West Virginia's workforce. Additionally, 20 students from local colleges and universities including Alderson Broaddus, Davis & Elkins, Bethany College, West Virginia State University and the University of Charleston were sponsored by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and others so that they could experience this remarkable conference. The future of West Virginia lies in the hands of these young women and it was an honor to have them in attendance.

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Summit included topics such as how to inspire participation and inclusiveness, how to rise to success and how to move women in West Virginia forward, among many others. Attendees were ecstatic with the messages they heard and left the conference energized and inspired. The top-notch agenda was packed with notable West Virginians and those with ties to West Virginia such as First Lady Cathy Justice, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Mayor Amy Goodwin, Jill Upson, Karen Bowling, Dr. Lyn O'Connell, The Hon. Yvette Mcgee Brown, Jennifer Giovannitti, Marchelle Moore and others.

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to advancing West Virginia's business climate and moving West Virginia in the right direction. As West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Kathy Thomas said, "the Women's Leadership Summit is critical to West Virginia and we look forward to hosting this event for many years to come. The agenda featured outstanding topics and speakers and our members are asking for more programs of this nature."

*Members of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce are your small business neighbors. Chamber members employ over half of our state's workforce and are found in every county and region of our state.*

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