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Women In Government

Press Release

Women In Government Hosts 17th Annual State Directors' and Ninth Biennial First Term Legislators' Conferences

Over 65 female state legislators convened in beautiful Dana Point, California for Women In Government's 17th Annual State Directors' and Ninth Biennial First Term Legislators' conferences on January 6-8, 2011. For two and half days, legislators met to discuss policies affecting their regions in 2011.

"This annual event is an opportunity for our State Directors to identify cutting edge issues within their states. These women have been identified by Women In Government as regional legislative leaders, and are a fantastic bipartisan cross section of women state legislators across the country," says Women In Government President Emeritus Susan Crosby. "Of course, we are always excited to engage newly elected legislators as well. This is an opportunity for them to network with veteran legislators, as well as educate themselves prior to the beginning of their sessions."

The conference kicked off on Thursday afternoon, where the State Directors participated in breakout sessions by region to discuss the top policy priorities of 2011. Issues such as health care reform, alternative energy, shrinking budgets, and costs of both primary and secondary education were echoed throughout the regions. "2011 will continue to be a difficult year as the economy slowly recovers," says Crosby. "These legislators are looking to do more with less and less. We hope that the dialogue that begins here will continue in each of their states and produce sound policy decisions."

Friday began a full day of programming for both the State Directors and First Term Legislators. Over the course of both conferences, legislators heard from a variety of policy experts on issues such as healthcare, energy, education, domestic violence, and family economic success. Speakers included representatives from the Alzheimer's Association, Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics, Tennessee Department of Health, Discovery Health Communications, Center for American Women & Politics, Complete College America, Kids Count!, Nuclear Energy Institute, Mental Health America of Indiana, Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education, and Convicted Women Against Abuse. Friday evening was capped by a picturesque cocktail reception and dinner with stunning views of the sunset and Pacific Ocean. The sessions concluded on Saturday morning.

In addition to the plenary speakers, both the State Directors' and First Term legislators had the opportunity for leadership development. Members of Women In Government's Board of Directors' were also paired with First Termers mentees throughout the event. The State Director mentors were encouraged to develop a relationship with their mentee, and offer any advice on their new role representing their respective states.

To learn more about Women In Government, as well as view the materials from our 17th Annual State Directors' and Ninth Biennial First Term Legislators' Conferences, please visit:

<http://www.womeningovernment.org/2011StateDirectorsFirstTermers>

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