



Maine Women's Policy Center

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Strategies for Economic Success Championed at Women's Breakfast

(Bangor) The Maine Women's Policy Center held the annual Breakfast of Champions at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on Wednesday, with remarks by a national expert on women in the economy. Participants in this year's event, *As Women Succeed, Maine Prospers: Women in Business and the Economy*, discussed opportunities for increasing Maine women's economic prosperity.

Keynote speaker Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Governmental Relations, emphasized the federal initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of women and girls, "Achieving full economic opportunity for women will require everyone's participation. That's why AAUW members in Maine are working for pay equity, access to education and training, and programs that promote work life balance in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. We have a tremendous opportunity, right now, to further these goals for women in Maine and across the United States."

Said Sarah Standiford, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Policy Center, "We know that Maine's economic future is tied to the strength of our workforce, our business leadership, and our investments in family and community. Women are in many ways the pillar behind all three. Women will soon make up 50% of the entire labor force. We comprise the majority of new business start-ups. We continue to be the primary caregivers for children and adult family members, as well as make the vast majority of health and consumer decisions in our households. Simply put, we cannot talk about our economic future without talking about the contributions of women. It's time to start talking about the new policies and practices that will support the success of women in the workplace and contribute to our shared economic success."

The Bangor event is the second of three events spanning the state in Presque Isle, Bangor, and Portland. The events are made possible with the lead sponsorship support of KeyBank and Atkins Printing.

*The Maine Women's Policy Center, founded in 1990, is a private nonprofit, non-partisan organization whose purpose is to improve the lives of Maine women and girls through public policy and leadership development.*

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