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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS-LOS ANGELES TO
HOST 20th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Eleven Accomplished Women Business Leaders to Be Honored at Gala Event
Friday, March 17, 2006 at Beverly Hilton Hotel**

(LOS ANGELES) January 31, 2006 – The Los Angeles chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO-LA) will celebrate the achievements of leading business owners at the 20th Annual NAWBO-LA Leadership and Legacy Awards Luncheon at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Friday, March 17, 2006. A total of eleven highly accomplished women business owners will be honored at the gala event before an audience of more than 1,300 business leaders, media, dignitaries and celebrities.

The National Association of Women Business Owners is a nationwide membership organization that inspires and empowers women entrepreneurs into economic, social and political spheres of leadership. Comprised of more than 8,000 members in 80 chapters, NAWBO has become the quintessential voice of women entrepreneurs in the United States. This year, the board of directors of the Los Angeles chapter of NAWBO has selected seven women to receive prestigious NAWBO-LA awards, and has chosen four additional women to be inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame.

"I speak on behalf of NAWBO-LA and the Enterprise Institute when I say that we are not only excited but also deeply proud to be commemorating our 20th anniversary of the Leadership and Legacy Awards Luncheon," said Helen Han, NAWBO-LA executive director. "This much-anticipated event is an occasion to celebrate more than two decades of entrepreneurial excellence and to recognize the incredible women business leaders who have so boldly led the way."

The theme of the 20th Annual Leadership and Legacy Awards Luncheon is "no one succeeds alone." NAWBO-LA is committed to paying tribute to women business leaders who do not merely stand head and shoulders above their peers, but who also stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them, humbly recognizing that the foundation for their success was built on the shoulders of the women who preceded them and that their accomplishments, in turn, will serve as inspiration to a new generation of women.

The seven NAWBO-LA honorees for 2006 are:

Debbie Allen, founder and artistic director of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, who will receive the Trailblazer Award;

Monica Lozano, publisher and CEO of *La Opinion*, who will receive the Leadership Award;

Patty DeDominic, CEO of The PDQ Careers Group, who will receive the Legacy Award;

JoAnn Bourne, executive vice president of Union Bank of California, who will accept the Corporate Partner of the Year Award on the company's behalf;

Patti Chang, president and CEO of The Women's Foundation of California, who will receive the Advocate Organization Award;

Betsy Berkhemer-Credaire, president of Berkhemer Clayton, Inc., who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award; and

Anna Ouroumian, president & CEO of the Academy of Business Leadership, who will receive the Inspiration Award.

The four inductees to the NAWBO-LA Hall of Fame are:

Judy Levy and Ellen Pazanti, co-owners of Levy, Pazanti & Associates;

Nien-Ling Wacker, president of Laserfiche Document Management; and

Gwen Vuchsas, owner and COO of SECO Investigative & Security Services.

"The eleven women to be honored at the 20th Annual Leadership and Legacy Awards Luncheon personify the name of the event," said Bonnie Nijst, NAWBO-LA event chair/president-elect and president/CEO of Zeesman Communications. "Individually, they set the highest standards of leadership in their respective fields, and collectively, their path-breaking work contributes to a powerful legacy they will bequeath to the next generation of women business owners."

Union Bank of California, the Presenting Sponsor of the 20th Annual Leadership and Legacy Awards Luncheon, recently presented a donation of \$50,000 to the Enterprise Institute of NAWBO-LA. Luncheon sponsors also include: Northrop Grumman, Southern California Edison and Washington Mutual (Gold Sponsors); American Honda Motor Company and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. (Silver Sponsors); and Raytheon (Bronze Sponsor).

Emmy Award-winning KCAL 9 News co-anchor Sylvia Lopez will serve as the mistress of ceremonies. The event is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2006 with a networking reception to be held from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. and the luncheon awards ceremony taking place from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, 9876 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Valet parking will be provided for \$14 and self parking will also be available at a cost of \$9. Event tickets can be purchased online at www.nawbola.org for \$175 (NAWBO-LA members receive a \$25 discount). Attendance is limited and early registration is encouraged. Funds raised by the event will further the efforts of NAWBO-LA and its Enterprise Institute in their work supporting women entrepreneurs.

About NAWBO-LA

Founded in 1979, NAWBO-Los Angeles is one of the largest and fastest-growing chapters of the National Association of Women Business Owners. NAWBO-LA strives to empower and enable women entrepreneurs into economic, political and social spheres of leadership. Representing more than 335,000 women-owned businesses in Los Angeles and Long Beach, employing more than 700,000 people, and generating more than \$113 billion in annual revenues, NAWBO-LA members have become an increasingly active and powerful force shaping the economic and political landscape of Southern California. For more information about NAWBO-LA, please visit www.nawbola.org, e-mail info@nawbola.org, or call (213) 622-3200.

About the Enterprise Institute of NAWBO-LA

The Enterprise Institute of NAWBO-LA is a 501(c)3 foundation dedicated to accelerating initiatives and research that promote the entrepreneurship of women worldwide. We accomplish this by building strategic alliances and partnerships that embrace entrepreneurial excellence, create access and opportunities, and share knowledge and information. For more information about the Enterprise Institute of NAWBO-LA, please visit www.enterpriseinstitute4women.org or call (213) 622-3200.

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