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Fortune 500 Company Leaders Join New IWL Male Ally Advisory Group

Organization behind acclaimed annual women's conference establishes Male Ally Advisory Group to further allyship initiatives across the board

(INDIANAPOLIS – Aug. 22, 2019) – [Integrating Women Leaders \(IWL\) Foundation](#) announces the creation of the organization's first advisory group focused on the development of male allies, the IWL Male Ally Advisory Group. The group will include perspectives from leaders at companies of all sizes, ranging from startups to Fortune 500 companies. Founding members of the IWL Male Ally Advisory Group include leadership from Eli Lilly & Co., Cummins and Humana.

“Advancing female talent and closing gender disparities requires building a culture of respect and equal opportunity. It isn't something women can champion alone -- we must include a dialogue with men,” said Kim Graham Lee, IWL Foundation CEO. “Over the years, IWL has been intentional about inviting men into the conversation. We welcome their involvement in our efforts to accelerate the advancement of women, including panels, breakout sessions, and workshops on ‘Activating Males as Allies.’ We hope to further that momentum with the founding of the IWL Male Ally Advisory Group.”

The IWL Male Ally Advisory Group provides another avenue for developing a community of male allies across different organizations and geographies. Founding members include:

- Dan Byrne, Senior Director-Neuroscience Market Access at Eli Lilly and Company
- Paul Sowerby, Executive Director, Global Technical Operations at Cummins
- Ajoy Kodali, Senior Vice President, Business Technology Leadership at Humana
- Dustin Hall, Brand-Integration Director, Emerging Brands at Brown-Forman

Objectives of the IWL Male Ally Advisory Group include:

- Develop best practices and new ways to advance allyship from awareness to advocacy
- Strengthen allyship initiatives within individual companies and across organizations

- Direct and engage with IWL programming to support men

“The business case is clear: companies with more women in leadership are more profitable. In the era post-#MeToo, it can be scary for men to advocate for women, but that doesn’t make it any less important,” said Byrne. “Being an ally includes recognizing one’s privilege, creating opportunity and supporting across genders. It’s being aware of the little and big things that happen daily in interactions that can potentially make people feel ‘less than.’ And, it means advocating for women, even when they’re not in the room.”

The IWL Male Ally Advisory Group will kick off during the [10th Annual IWL Indianapolis Women’s Leadership Conference](#) taking place on September 16 at the JW Marriott. This year’s event is expected to sell out again at 1,200 attendees, including female leaders and 120+ male allies. Programming for this year’s conference includes an interactive mainstage session on “Gender Bias” where both men and women will share their stories. A special breakout session, “What Male Allies Need,” will officially kick off the IWL Male Ally Advisory Group. Interested men and women are invited to attend and provide input. The session will be facilitated by IWL Board Chair, Robert Lescano of Amazon Web Services and IWL Board Secretary, Tracy Betz of Taft Stettinius and Hollister LLP.

To learn more about the conference and reserve your spot, visit www.IWLConference.com.

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About Integrating Women Leaders (IWL) Foundation

Integrating Women Leaders (IWL) Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization accelerating the advancement of women to drive individual and organizational growth and impact. IWL is a resource for individuals who want to invest in themselves and organizations who want to invest in women’s leadership, tackling real gender issues with optimism and proven strategies that work. As partners in talent development, IWL unleashes the highest level of performance for both women and men and their organizations. They do this through perspective-changing experiences, including conferences, workshops, consulting, and individualized programs. Founded in 2010, IWL is headquartered in Indianapolis, IN and hosts its highly-acclaimed annual women’s leadership conferences in both Indianapolis, IN and Louisville, KY.

For more information, visit www.iwlfoundation.org or contact Kim Graham Lee, CEO, Integrating Women Leaders (IWL) Foundation at kgrahamlee@iwlfoundation.org.