



Leadership for Generations™

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**For Immediate Release**

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**State Department Taps OC Business Leader for MENA Businesswomen's Summit 2006**

*Suzanne Frindt joins roster of executives to support women in U.A.E.*

**Capistrano Beach, Calif., Oct. 26, 2006** – Suzanne Frindt, co-founder and principal of 2130 Partners, a leadership development firm, has been invited to participate in the 2006 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Businesswomen's Summit from October 29 through November 1 at the Beach Rotana Hotel in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. The summit will bring 250 dynamic women from the region together with women executives from the United States to share solutions and help take business in the region to a new level.

The Summit is part of the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) that supports the reformers who are working to build a more peaceful and prosperous Middle East. In the last four years, MEPI has devoted more than \$293 million to reform efforts -- so democracy can spread, education can thrive, economies can grow, and women can be empowered. The Beyster Institute at the Rady School of Management at the University of California, San Diego, is managing the Summit.

"One of my personal passions for many years has been the empowerment of women, particularly in the area of sustainable self-sufficiency and business opportunities," Frindt said. As a result, she has been an initiator, leader and teacher in a variety of arenas for women from philanthropic and business perspectives. She was invited to participate by Ray Smilor, executive director of the Beyster Institute, because of her extensive executive leadership coaching experience through her work with Vistage International (previously known as TEC International), as well as for her signature leadership development program, Vision Focused Leadership™. She has been an investor/activist for the Hunger Project, with an overarching focus on the development of women as leaders.

"We are extremely grateful for the dedication of Suzanne and all of our presenters, who are generously sharing their real-world experiences and leadership skills to help these women face the same challenges that confront women in business everywhere," Smilor said. "Their guidance in financing growth, opening new markets and finding and keeping good employees, while contributing to the community and their families is invaluable."

At the MENA Businesswomen's Summit 2006, Frindt will lead a workshop on Vision-Focused Leadership, and facilitate a dialogue with women entrepreneurs who have been selected to present during a plenary session about the key issues they are facing in their businesses. Frindt will be joined by Patricia Cloherty, chairman and CEO of Delta Private Equity Partners; and Laura Kilcrease, founder and managing director of Triton Ventures, LLC, to provide insights and coach these entrepreneurs through their issues. The session will be witnessed by nearly 250 conference participants, and will be translated simultaneously into French and Arabic. She will also facilitate a roundtable discussion group titled "Enhancing Personal Leadership Skills."

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## **State Department Taps OC Business Leader/Page 2**

Other featured presenters include: H.E. Suhair Al Ali, Minister of Industry and International Cooperation, Jordan; The Honorable Karen Hughes, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy; The Honorable Michele Sison, U.S. Ambassador to U.A.E.; Raja Easa Al Gurg, managing director, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group (ranked #4, Forbes 50 Most Influential Women in the Arab World); Afnan Al Zayani, Bahrain Businesswomen's Society; Laura Nash, author and former Harvard Business School professor; Lori Brock, trade expert, Booz Allen Hamilton; and Carmen Neithammer, director, Gender Entrepreneurship Market, International Finance Corp.

### **About 2130 Partners**

2130 Partners unique approach is anchored in the philosophy of Vision-Focused Leadership. "VFL" is a proprietary combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies that satisfy the need for "hard facts," and data, while integrating the "heart and soul" of an organization. Using VFL methodologies, we facilitate client's ability to design strategies and actions that evoke individual and collaborative fulfillment of a shared vision. The results radically fuel an organization's financial growth and the personal growth of its members. The firm's Web site also features a blog dedicated to global women's business issues. Visit [www.2130Partners.com](http://www.2130Partners.com).

### **About MEPI**

The Middle East Partnership Initiative of the U.S. Department of State is designed to support innovative, sustainable and locally led economic, political and educational reform efforts in the Middle East and North Africa, and to champion opportunity for all people of the region, especially women and youth. Visit [www.mepi.state.gov](http://www.mepi.state.gov).

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