



DRESS FOR SUCCESS[®]
Suits to Self-Sufficiency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERGING LEADERS CONVENE FOR ANNUAL SUCCESS SUMMIT

Chicago, IL– (July 30, 2010) Dress for Success, the international nonprofit organization that helps disadvantaged women achieve economic independence, will convene its sixth annual Professional Women’s Group *Success Summit* July 30-August 1 at the Hotel Palomar in Chicago. The keynote speaker will be Julie Murphy, senior vice president of Midwest operations at Walmart. Sponsors of the event include Aetna, Gap Inc., Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, lia sophia, Robert Half International, Rona Jaffe Foundation and Walmart.

The *Success Summit* is a leadership conference for Professional Women’s Group (PWG) members, women who have participated in Dress for Success programs and now are employed and building their careers. This year, 57 Dress for Success affiliates from around the world will be represented by 46 delegates and 49 PWG coordinators. Industry leaders will conduct seminars and interactive sessions on topics such as financial literacy, career advancement, health and wellness and networking. The Professional Women’s Group is Dress for Success’ international employment retention program, which provides women with support, practical information and inspiration to achieve self-defined success in career and life. There are currently more than 11,000 Professional Women’s Group members at 65 Dress for Success affiliates globally.

“The delegates will leave the *Success Summit* motivated and equipped with the tools to not only succeed personally and professionally, but to also give back to their communities,” said Joi Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of Dress for Success Worldwide. “This conference is a stepping stone for women to become leaders and make a difference.”

The delegates attending this year’s *Success Summit* are a diverse and impressive group of women and have been PWG members for an average of three years. All are currently employed and 84% have children. 78% have taken at least some college courses and 42% of delegates have earned an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Serving as keynote speaker of the awards banquet on July 31, Julie Murphy will share her insights on leadership with *Success Summit* attendees. A member of the Network of Executive Women, the National Association of Female Executives and the Board of



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Directors of the National 4-H, Ms. Murphy is a model of success, leadership and community giving.

A highlight of the *Success Summit* is the presentation of the annual Professional Women's Group Achievement Awards. This year, Dress for Success will honor one affiliate and one delegate who utilized the leadership skills they acquired at last year's conference to help their PWG and local community. Nicole Gates from Dress for Success Memphis is the 2010 delegate honoree for her work leading her fellow PWG members in a Community Action Project to give back to their local area. The affiliate recipient will be announced at the awards dinner.

With the help of her fellow PWG members, Nicole created *M:i MEMPHIS...Agents in the Fight Against Infant Mortality*. Memphis is ranked number one in the country for infant mortality, so the group dedicated itself to educating the city and fighting this tragic problem. Nicole's Community Action Project was an outstanding success, with more than 2,600 Memphis residents touched by the project. The group, and Nicole in particular, has been acknowledged by several organizations and elected leaders for the significant impact they made in raising awareness and combating infant mortality.

"I learned through this project that I have the capacity to make a difference in my community in a big way, to be a valuable resource and to forge positive partnerships," shared Nicole.

About Dress for Success

Dress for Success is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Since starting operations in 1997, Dress for Success has expanded to more than 100 cities in the U.S., Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the UK and the West Indies. To date, Dress for Success has helped more than 550,000 women work towards self-sufficiency. Visit www.dressforsuccess.org to learn more.

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