

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Successful Silicon Valley Venture Conference Initiates Call for Applications for 2006 Conference

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA • May 10th, 2006** - On the heels of the outstanding success of The Women's Technology Cluster's 2005 Venture Conference, WTC has just launched The Call for applications for its 2006 Venture Conference. With over 50% of the companies that presented at its November 2005 Conference achieving funding, WTC's conferences are establishing a reputation for producing valuable deal flow for the Silicon Valley's investment community.

The 2006 Venture Conference, which will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> in Silicon Valley, is expected to showcase up to 30 women-led technology-driven companies, and to achieve similar investment success rates.

"Since 2003, companies presenting at WTC conferences have raised over \$129 million in financings, including one publicly quoted company, and have returned \$88 million to their investors through M&A transactions," commented Jennifer McFarlane, CEO WTC. "As we have been providing acceleration services to women-led technology driven companies in Silicon Valley since 1999, we have developed extensive networks that are critical in identifying the next up-and-coming leaders. We are pleased to expand these networks in 2006 outside California in order to produce an increasingly diverse deal flow for the Valley."

Sue Kunz, a presenter at the 2005 Conference and CEO of Solidware Technologies based in Colorado, commented, "The 2005 Conference was a class act and offered superb value. We are excited to have just received funding which was aided in large part by the contribution by each of the WTC coaches and panelists. The investment in travel costs was worth every penny."

Leading the Venture Conference is the 2006 Executive Council, comprised of ten prominent Venture Capital Firms and Limited Partners. Executive Council members will contribute their investment expertise to the evaluation and selection of applications, and include: Lon Chow, Apex Venture Partners; Pitch Johnson, Asset Management; Priya Mathur, CalPERS; Monica Morse, Cargill Ventures; Mitchell Kertzman, Hummer Winblad Venture Partners; Jeff Karras, Levensohn Venture Partners; Jo Anne Miller, Nokia Ventures Organization; Cindy Padnos, Outlook Ventures; SAP Ventures; and Joanna Rees-Gallanter, VSP Capital.

"The WTC Venture Conference Companies are consistently very high quality and that is very unusual for Venture Conferences," noted Mitchell Kertzman, Partner Hummer Winblad Venture Partners. Mr. Kertzman has sponsored WTC Venture Conferences since 2004 and has invested in WTC Conference Companies.

The application deadline is August 15<sup>th</sup>. Further information on qualifications, the applications and process can be obtained at [www.wtc-sf.org](http://www.wtc-sf.org).

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### About The Women's Technology Cluster

The Women's Technology Cluster is a business accelerator committed to increasing the number of successful women-led companies in the life science, high technology and clean technology sectors. The WTC's portfolio has included more than 60 companies that have collectively raised over \$60 million. In addition, over 65 companies participating in WTC's Annual Venture Conferences have raised in excess of \$100 million since 2003. Fifty percent of the companies that presented at the November 2005 Entrepreneur Venture Conference have already received funding. The WTC invites high-potential, early-stage companies with at least one woman in an executive or founding role to apply to join its portfolio or present at its Entrepreneur Venture Conference. Through a dedicated mentor community of over 150 proven CEOs, investors, and industry experts, the WTC provides extensive advisory services, coaching, and access to business and capital networks for its portfolio companies.