PRESS RELEASE

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Los Angeles summit to galvanize the next generation of women to become civic and political leaders

At a time when more young women than ever are becoming civically engaged and stepping up to declare their political ambition, IGNITE and The United State of Women are pleased to host, with the sponsorship of Delta Air Lines, the first ever Los Angeles Young Women’s Political Leadership Summit on Saturday April 29, 2017 at Mount Saint Mary’s University. The event keynote, Soledad O’Brien, CEO of Starfish Media Group & Host of Matter of Fact with Soledad O’Brien, will rally young women to own their narrative and fair share of political power. “I think it’s crucial we change the narrative in our media around women in power,” said O’Brien. “As the next generation of journalists, Congresswomen, and even Presidents, it’s important that young women have a seat at the table.” Participants will leave the summit activated, informed, and ready to run for office.

Since the election, IGNITE has been flooded by young women across the country who are inspired to run for office! Anne Moses, Founder and President of IGNITE, reflects the need for this summit. “Given this extraordinary moment in our nation’s history, there is no better time than now to tell young women that we want them to be the next generation of political leaders, and that we are here to help them start their careers now. Our powerhouse line-up of expert panels, dynamic workshops, and inspiring elected women will set young women on the right course to bring their ambitions to life.”

“Young women care, they are informed, and they deserve to have their voices heard, that’s why we want to give the megaphone to them -- because they are the future” said Jordan Brooks, Managing Director of USOW. “We’re proud to be partnering with IGNITE to help young women turn their passion into action.”

Throughout the day, participants will learn the ins and outs of running for office, while digging deep on timely policy issues like immigration and women’s health. Speakers include: Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Council; Julie Chavez Rodriguez, State Director, Kamala Harris; Jess Weiner, author, speaker, and entrepreneur; Monique Coleman, Disney's High School Musical star and appointed United Nations Youth Champion; Wendy Carrillo, recent Congressional candidate, journalist and activist; Dana Debel, Delta Air Lines; Mona Field, Former Board Member, Los Angeles Community College Board Member; Nourbese Flint, Black Women for Wellness; and Isabel Sanchez, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights. Over 20 elected women will join conference participants at lunch to encourage them to step into political leadership. IGNITE national spokesperson, Emmy nominated actress Vannessa Vasquez, will emcee the event.

Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls will serve as the exclusive media partner for the event. Founded by Amy Poehler and Meredith Walker, Smart Girls is dedicated to providing a healthy alternative to so much that is being marketed to young people on the internet. The team will publish live content throughout the day on Smart Girls’ Instagram Stories, and will make post-event videos available on AmySmartGirls.com.
Special thanks to our lead sponsor Delta Air Lines for making the event possible, and Mount Saint Mary’s University for hosting the event. For more information on the summit visit: http://www.ignitenational.org/los_angeles_young_women_s_political_leadership_summit

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**About IGNITE**
IGNITE is building a national movement of young women who are ready and eager to become the next generation of political leaders. As a nonpartisan 501c3, IGNITE builds political ambition in high school and college-aged young women in their own communities. IGNITE provides civic education, exposure to women in political leadership, hands on training, work opportunities, and a peer network of women who support and nurture each other’s aspirations for civic and political leadership.

**About United State of Women**
The United State of Women (USOW) is a megaphone for the gender equality movement. Launched in 2016 with a Summit co-hosted with the White House Council on Women and Girls, USOW amplifies important issues, hosts large-scale convenings, and organizes women locally to advocate for change. USOW is taking action today to change tomorrow.

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