



The Leadership Foundry is a non-profit effort, spearheaded by Women in Technology (WIT) to address the gender diversity chasm on corporate boards in the Washington, DC, area. The program will provide training and broker key introductions to grow the number of women serving on corporate boards.

The Facts*

- « There has been an overall increase from 10% to 11% of women serving on corporate boards in the past year in the Washington, DC, metro area, which is in line with national trends.
- « Not only has there been a significant upward trend in women board members in health-care, some historically male-dominated industries—including finance and insurance—are also showing increases in the number of women on their boards.
- « In Virginia, the number of companies without women representation on their boards has shown a positive shift and dropped from 38% in 2012 to 35% in 2013.
- « Of the 208 companies surveyed that are headquartered in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC, women hold 89 of the 679 board seats (13.1%) in Maryland, 109 of the 1061 board seats (10.3%) in Virginia, and 16 of the 137 board seats (11.7%) in Washington, DC.
- « The findings of the 2013 study reveal that 92.8% of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC, companies have fewer than three women on their boards. Having three or more women serving on a board allows a company to achieve “critical mass” and benefit from board member diversity.

How it Works

The Leadership Foundry will provide intensive board training sessions that prepare women to serve on a board of directors. In addition, there will be formal and informal networking and mentoring opportunities to assist the participants in obtaining their first corporate board seat. A group of 15–20 experienced women executives will have the opportunity to be a part of this program.

For more information contact staff@womenintechnology.org or Denise Hart at denise@o2lab.com.

*Data from a Women in Technology-commissioned report, prepared by American University Kogod School of Business in 2012, that examined the number of women board members from 224 publicly traded companies headquartered in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC.