



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*

- « Women hold 11.8% (225) of the 1,900 board seats at the 203 publicly held companies in the Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland region. This is a slight increase over the 11% of women found on board seats in this region reported by the 2013 WIT study.
- « Of those companies, 7.5% (15) had a critical mass of women (three or more) serving as board directors.
- « The share price of the three companies with three or more women on their boards, Lockheed Martin, Gannett, and MeadWestVaco, grew more consistently than the share price of their respective competitors, which did not have a critical mass of women on their boards.
- « The trend from 2010 to 2014 shows an increase in regional companies from one to two women serving on corporate boards to two to three women, the point at which companies reach a critical mass of women on their boards.



11.8% of 1900 seats



7.5% of 203 companies

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.

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*Data from a Women in Technology-commissioned report, prepared by American University Kogod School of Business in 2014, that examined the number of women board members from 203 publicly traded companies headquartered in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC.

