

# Simmons College Hosts National Conversation on Gender Diversity on Corporate Boards, Nov. 20



BOSTON (November 5, 2014) — As part of a national campaign to accelerate the pace of growth of women on corporate boards in the United States, [Simmons College](#) will host a "real-talk" [dialogue](#) with [2020 Women on Boards \(WOB\)](#) to help achieve this goal. The event — "What Will it Take for the United States to Become a Global Leader in the Advancement of Women to Corporate Boards?" — takes place Thursday Nov. 20 at 7:30 a.m., in the Linda K. Paresky Conference Center at 300 The Fenway. It is one of 20 events being held around the country that day to address ways to boost the number of women on U.S. corporate boards. The campaign aims to raise the percentage of women on U.S. corporate boards to 20% or greater by 2020. Panelists include:

**Marty Gervasi**, Executive VP – Human Resources at The Hartford

**Connie McCann**, Global Financial Services, Spencer Stuart  
Philadelphia

**Cathy Minehan**, Dean of the Simmons School of Management

**Evelyn Murphy**, President of the WAGE Project, Inc.

**Robert F. Rivers**, CEO Eastern Bank

**Susan Vinnicombe**, OBE (Order of the British Empire), Deloitte Ellen  
Gabriel Endowed Chair in Women's Leadership, School of

## Management, Simmons College

According to 2020 WOB research, the percentage of board seats held by women in its 2020 WOB Gender Diversity Index, which is comprised of Fortune 1000 companies, increased to 16.6% in 2013 from 15.6% in 2012. The percentage of board seats held by women in 2011, the first year of reporting, was 14.6%. 2020 WOB will release the 2014 Gender Diversity Index data November 20. "There is substantial demand to expand the number of women on boards among corporations that understand the correlation between board diversity to and a better bottom-line," said [Dean Minehan](#). "While we've seen significant improvement in the past two years, awareness of how to recruit more women to boards and how to support a robust pipeline of women who can move into board leadership remains a challenge." The 2020 Women on Boards campaign supporters include individuals, organizations, and companies that embrace the principle that diversity in the boardroom encourages good corporate decision-making. Chapters are being launched in major cities across the United States. The campaign publishes the annual Gender Diversity Index, which reports on the gender diversity of boards of directors in Fortune 1000 companies. For more information, visit [www.2020WOB.com](http://www.2020WOB.com). The November 20 dialogue is part of SimmonsLEADS, a dynamic series of exciting speakers, programs, and events that focus on the empowerment and development of women leaders. All SimmonsLEADS events, including the Simmons Leadership Conference — the capstone program of the series, are non-profit fundraisers for graduate scholarships at Simmons College. Founded in 1899, Simmons College ([simmons.edu](http://simmons.edu)) is a nationally recognized university located in Boston with a history of visionary thinking and social responsibility. It offers undergraduate education for women and the nation's first MBA program designed specifically for women. It also features renowned coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences; liberal arts, including education and behavior analysis; library and information science; social work; and business. The Simmons event is open to the public. To register, visit [SimmonsLEADS](#). Join the conversation on Twitter [@2020wob](#) and [#2020WOB](#).