

### *For Immediate Release*

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## **Geneva to Host International Simmons Leadership Conference 2017**

### ***Presidents, Prime Ministers, CEOs, Founders, Funders, Leading Authors and Thinkers to Inspire Top Business Women (and Men)***

**BOSTON (May 10, 2017)**— [Simmons College](#), championing women’s leadership for over a century, today announces its second [International Simmons Leadership Conference](#). The event will be held October 26-27, 2017 at the Grand Hotel Kempinski in Geneva, Switzerland.

This year's program celebrates ***Leading with Purpose***, focusing on the many ways that women, and many men, too, are redefining the meaning of female power and success. The event will bring together mold-breakers from across politics, enterprise, economics, and media with an audience of highly accomplished global businesspeople.

The sought-after two-day event is intended to inspire important conversations, spur debate, and fuel ideas to impel female business leaders to take up new challenges, break through and be exemplary.

Exceptional speakers this year include Ireland’s first female President, Mary Robinson, and Australia’s first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard. They will be joined by, among others, celebrated technology innovator, founder and CEO of neuroscience company EMOTIV, Tan Le; UK entrepreneur and co-founder of Coffee Republic, Sahar Hashemi; and global economist and author Dr. Dambisi Moyo.

Presenting insights and experiences from her own exemplary life and career, former Prime Minister Gillard’s address to the conference is entitled *Reflections on a Life of Purpose— and Our Future Horizons*. She says: *“I am very honored to participate in the International Simmons Leadership Conference, and to join over 500 leading businesswomen from around the world. It will be an exciting and engaging conference.”*

Today’s announcement comes on the heels of the hugely successful 38<sup>th</sup> annual Simmons Leadership Conference, held on April 13, in Boston, Massachusetts. The Boston conference drew over 3,400 delegates. It featured highly rated talks by actress Marlee Matlin; Olympian, Diana Nyad; Fashion icon, Diane von Furstenberg; and humanitarian, Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe.

*“We’re thrilled to be back in Europe and building on our inaugural international conference last November in Berlin,”* said Judy Benjamin, Executive Director, SimmonsLEADS, Simmons College. *“Leading with Purpose is an especially pertinent theme, not only for our speakers and delegates but for us, too. Our conference franchise, built over four decades, exists to empower women—from*

*whatever walk of life—to become leaders and to excel. We are 100 percent dedicated to that mission.”*

The Geneva leadership event will attract some 500 professionals from across Europe and beyond. The event is generously supported by world-leading organizations: Dell, Biogen, and Cisco, among others.

Registration information and the full list of confirmed speakers can be found at [simmons.edu/leadership/international](http://simmons.edu/leadership/international).

Proceeds from the international conference and its US counterpart are dedicated to Simmons College’s graduate program scholarships, for development of future leaders. The conference is organized by SimmonsLEADS, a dynamic set of programs and events developed by Simmons College and focusing on women’s development as leaders.

### **About the Simmons Leadership Conference and Simmons International Leadership Conference**

Simmons College has presented this conference consecutively for 38 years, and it is now the US’s premier women’s leadership conference. Previous years’ events have featured such notable women as Hillary Rodham Clinton, Madeleine Albright, the late Benazir Bhutto, Christiane Amanpour, Meg Whitman, Mary Robinson, Arianna Huffington, and Queen Noor.

### **About Simmons College**

Simmons College ([www.simmons.edu](http://www.simmons.edu)) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston, and is the preeminent authority on women’s leadership. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women’s college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](https://twitter.com/SimmonsCollege) and [@SimmonsNews](https://twitter.com/SimmonsNews).