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**Applications open for Leadership America's new program format focusing  
on agile leadership**  
*National Women's Leadership Program visits Chicago, San Francisco/Silicon Valley  
Washington D.C. and China*

**DALLAS, March 25, 2009** – Leadership America culminates the end of a year-long study with the announcement of new programming in 2009 focused on “Agile Leadership in an Ever-Changing World.” Applications remain open for all 2009 sessions, including the international trip to Beijing, China. Leadership America adapted the new programming to provide women shorter sessions that equip women leaders with the latest information and innovation for professional and personal growth.

These sessions will include the following cities and topics:

- **Chicago, IL, April 19 – 21, 2009 - Staying Ahead of the Pack in an Uncertain Economic Climate.** In the setting of the Federal Reserve Bank, participants will engage in conversation with **Randall Kroszner**, Professor of Economics at the Booth School of Business, University of Chicago. **Matt Miller**, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a contributing editor for *Fortune Magazine*, will present on his top-selling book, *The Tyranny of Dead Ideas—Letting Go of Old Ways to Unleash a New Prosperity*.
- **San Francisco/Silicon Valley, CA, July 19 – 21, 2009 - Technology Innovations: Using the Latest Innovations of Power Progress.** Googling, instant messaging, blogging, twittering, skypeing and social networking are critical paths for communication and research in a nano-instant. Learn what is on the drawing board in technology for the near future that will impact your business. Participants will return from this odyssey as an informed leader of tomorrow's technology.
- **Washington, D.C., October 11 – 13, 2009 - Navigating the World: Connecting the Global Economy.** Whether continuing to China or ending the New Leadership America 2009 in Washington, DC, participants will have a behind-the-scenes look at how the national and international, financial and political climates affect the industries and organizations represented by the class members.

Following briefings from State Department officials and economic policy leaders in Washington, DC, 2009 Leadership America international participants will fly to Beijing, China. They will have an unprecedented opportunity to connect with women leaders in a country whose destiny is inevitably intertwined with our own, creating a global women's leadership network.

Results from the 2008 study concerning topics from length of sessions to the major hindrance in women's advancement in leadership roles, shaped to build a 2009 program that is more effective and



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attainable by today's woman leader. Coupling these results with a human resources survey, Leadership America discovered the following:

- Technology utilization is an important leadership skill when it comes to advancing their career according to 89% of women polled.
- Technology competence was cited by 73% of the women polled as is important to advancement of women in their organization.
- There is a clear link between leadership training and career advancement according to 66% of human resources polled.

Leadership America, one of the longest running national women's leadership programs in the world, was established in 1988 to recognize and bring together accomplished women who have achieved success in their professions, their communities and beyond. Leadership America is the flagship program of The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future. The Women's Museum, in association with the Smithsonian Institute, is the nation's only comprehensive women's history museum that chronicles the lives of American women through interactive exhibits.

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**LEADERSHIP AMERICA: NATIONAL PROGRAM SPONSOR**

This important initiative is made possible by the generous support of **State Farm Insurance Companies**. Recognized as one of America's top corporate supporters of women's leadership and diversity, State Farm's senior executive team includes many highly accomplished women, including Executive Vice Presidents Barbara Cowden and Deborah Traskell, State Farm Life Chief Administrative Officer Susan Waring, and Vice President – Marketing Pamela K. El, who help lead and serve the company's 77 million auto, fire, life and health policies in the United States and Canada.