

Contact:

Jan Edwards (559) 355-7602 jan@ccwc-fresno.org

Betsy Hays (559) 916-6844 betsy@ccwc-fresno.org

For Immediate Release 9/15/16

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CELEBRATES ANOTHER SELL-OUT WITH LISA LING

www.CCWC-Fresno.org

Fresno, CA – The 29th Annual Central California Women's Conference (CCWC) is sold out! One of the largest crowds ever, 3,500 plus women will celebrate a day of fun, growth, and knowledge at the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

The theme of this year's event is #NoLimits. Attendees will be inspired to live their lives with no limits in areas including careers, relationships, and, most importantly, their own personal growth

Emmy-winning host and international correspondent, Lisa Ling is this year's keynote speaker. She joins 28 other national and local speakers who will discuss important topics for women at the daylong event.

In her keynote message, Ling will share stories she's assembled from her world-wide travels. "I can't wait to meet my 3,500 new friends at the 29th annual Central California Women's Conference," said Ling. "Living life with #NoLimits is something we all need to do!"

Women of all ages, ethnicities and economic backgrounds attend the annual Central California Women's Conference. In keeping with the conference mission of empowerment, to date, \$800,000 has been donated to the Valley community to support women's and children's community benefit organizations.

The morning Warm-Up Session kicks off the conference by honoring 20 under-served young women who will receive the Wells Fargo/CCWC College and Career Preparation Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of need, promise and the students' commitment to create positive change. Also in attendance at the conference will be the five AT&T/CCWC/Central California Education Opportunity Center (CCEOC) Re-Entry Scholars. And the winner of the PG&E CCWC She Makes a Difference award will be honored at the luncheon.

Morning keynote speaker Pegine Echevarria will then take the stage as the 29th annual event begins. New York Newsday calls Echevarria "a walking one-woman antidote to cynicism." She is an internationally-recognized motivational speaker, humorist, and researcher regarding personal and professional development for women and girls. Pegine was the Latina spokesperson for Clorox Latino and keynoted with two U.S. Presidents and authors John Maxwell and Suze Orman, among others.

Attendees choose three <u>breakout sessions</u> to attend throughout the day from 21 options. Topics include career development, health and fitness, money and finance, family and parenting, spirituality and courage, service and activism, and strength and change. Director of Marketing and Development, Jan Edwards agrees with Casares. "This year's speaker line-up could be the best in our 29-year history," said Edwards. "Where can you hear a former gang member make you laugh and cry while sharing how she achieved the pinnacle of success as a motivational speaker? Only at CCWC 2016!"

The keynote luncheon will be held in the new Exhibit Hall with Lisa Ling speaking.

Attendees also have the opportunity to visit the conference Marketplace and Community Corner where more than 175 businesses and non-profits share information about their products and services. Visitors will be treated to samples, gourmet tastings, information and shopping. "I always come drivin' on empty, but I always leave with a full bag (of Marketplace goodies) and a full heart," said long-time conference-goer June Boyce.

The day winds down with the Cool-Down Session where women enter to win prizes, kick off their shoes and relax. This year's Cool-Down speaker, Kat Simmons, is a 28-year veteran of the international comedy club circuit. She has performed via The Improvs, Catch A Rising Star, the Comedy Channel, Evening at the Improv, Fox's Comedy Tonight, and on Candid Camera.

The conference is made possible through the <u>support</u> of national and Central Valley businesses. The presenting sponsor is Wells Fargo. Founding sponsors are The Fresno Bee and ABC 30. Community Medical Centers is the Keynote Speaker Sponsor bringing in Lisa Ling. Major sponsors include Granville Homes, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Valley Children's Healthcare, Macy's, Fresno State, AT&T, Cumulus Media, Chick-fil-A, Univision Radio, Pepsi, Fresno Trade Bindery, The Brownie Baker, Macias Dermatology, Lennar New Homes, Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino, PG&E, Fresno Smile Makeover and many more.

More information about the <u>conference</u> and <u>speakers</u> is available at <u>www.CCWC-Fresno.org</u>.

###

The **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** was founded in 1988 by the late State Senator Ken L. Maddy of Fresno, Calif. The conference is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, non-political organization, and the event is designed to educate, motivate and inspire women to be the best they can be in their professional and personal lives. (Tax I.D. #77-0178140).