



Into the Boardroom—Changing the Playing Field

The Leadership Foundry's 2014 study, "Women Board Directors in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC," revealed that 93% of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC companies had fewer than three women on their boards. Three is an important number. With three or more women serving on a board, a company achieves "critical mass" and benefits from board gender diversity.

THREE OR MORE WOMEN SERVING ON A BOARD ALLOWS FOR CRITICAL MASS.

From 2013 to 2014, there was an overall increase from 11% to 11.8% of women serving on corporate boards in MD, VA and DC. While this is still below the national average, the improvement is in line with national trends. This is great news for boards and part of the mission of The Leadership Foundry.

About The Leadership Foundry:

The Leadership Foundry was created by Women in Technology (WIT) to assist more women to serve on corporate boards in the Washington, DC area. Through an intensive board training session and additional educational and networking opportunities, participants learn valuable information and make connections that prepare them for their first corporate board seat.

Women are selected based on the following criteria:

- Management and leadership experience
- Skilled and diverse background
- Integrity and professionalism

The Leadership Foundry's mission is to increase the number of women serving on corporate boards in the DC region and achieving critical mass on those boards. We will work with you to help you advance to the boardroom.

The Case:

Our research found that there are benefits to gathering multiple and diverse perspectives on corporate boards. Ariel Schwartz, a Senior Editor at "Co.Exist," writes "Here's the bottom line: more diverse teams breed more innovative outcomes." She goes on to quote Jeanne Hultquist, director of strategic corporate programs at the Anita Borg Institute and the author of the report "Innovation by Design: The Case for Investing in Women." "When you form a team tasked with a problem to solve or an opportunity to capitalize on, if you have half a dozen people with the same background in terms of life experience, education, where they grew up—you'll get a consensus around relatively homogenous solutions. [With] more diverse team chemistry, you get more perspectives with a larger variety of options to consider, and more chances of having innovative solutions proposed."

Are you interested in joining the next class?

Visit www.theleadershipfoundry.org and apply via the online application.