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## **News Release**

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**THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SARASOTA COUNTY AND  
THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ANNOUNCES  
THE 3RD ANNUAL "WOMEN IN A CHANGING WORLD"  
AT THE SAINER PAVILLION AND ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE ON MARCH 23**

*Moderator*

*Hayley Wielgus, Co-anchor ABC 7 News at 5, 6 and 11 p.m.*

*Panelists*

*Katie Cunningham, NYC-based professional actor and FSU/Asolo Conservatory alumna*

*Neale Godfrey, NY Times Best-Selling Author and Founder of Children's Financial Network, Inc.*

*Ann Jackson, Owner and Chairman of Rockler Companies, Inc.*

*Lucille O'Neal, Mother of Shaquille O'Neal and author of "Walk Like You Have Somewhere to Go"*

*Frank Sanchez, Boys & Girls Clubs of America National VP Sports, Entertainment & Alumni Relations*

SARASOTA, Fla. (March 16, 2015) –For the third year, the Women's Leadership Council (WLC) is deliberating change and revealing the secrets behind every successful woman sharing modern viewpoints from four dynamic women, including a male's perspective, on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at New College's Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road, just south of the Ringling Museum. The event, WOMEN IN A CHANGING WORLD, is a panel discussion educating women AND men on global philosophies embracing technology, social media, education, finance and creative thinking.

Co-chairs of Women in a Changing World panel are Jonna Keller, Nancy Markle and Carol Poteat-Buchanan. Keller is a Boys & Girls Club Board Member and an active volunteer and has contributed to WLC for a number of years. "The vision of both the WLC and BGCSC is to achieve academic success, develop leadership development and live healthy lifestyles. WOMEN IN A CHANGING WORLD was inaugurated to deliberate and dissect these three parts of the vision in a diverse, entertaining way, and the important role BGCSC's programs play in each of these areas." says Keller.

The Women's Leadership Council has received sponsorship support for WOMEN IN A CHANGING WORLD from First Security Investments; Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP; Dennis & Graci McGillicuddy; ABC7; Femme Rouge; Nancy Markle; Louis Minges; and US Trust.

The event will be held Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at New College's Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road from 5:30-7:30 P.M. An Afterglow Dinner with the panelists will be held at Asolo Repertory Theatre from 7:30-9:30. General admission tickets are \$35 and the Afterglow dinner and program is \$175. For tickets, go to [www.BGCSarasota.com](http://www.BGCSarasota.com) or call Patti at (941) 366-3911, ext. 121.

About the panelists:

Neale S. Godfrey is an acknowledged expert on family and children's finances and has been in the financial field for more than 30 years. Neale became one of the first female executives at The Chase Manhattan Bank and later the president of The First Women's Bank and founder of The First Children's Bank. In 1989, Neale formed her own company, Children's Financial Network, Inc., whose mission is to educate children and their parents about money.

Neale is the author of 27 books that deal with money, life skills, and value issues, and has been honored with a #1 New York Times Best Seller. Two of her iOS video gaming apps hit #1 in the Educational Gaming Category. Her latest app is GreenStreets: Heifer International, which teaches kids and parents how to connect the virtual and real worlds. Neale's, ECO-Effect®: The Greening of Money, combining ECONomics and ECOlogy, is a Financial Literacy and STEM program that shows adults and children how they can save money while also saving the environment.

Neale has served as a National Spokesperson for such companies as Aetna, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Fidelity, Quaker Oats, Nuveen and AOL-Time Warner.

Ann Jackson is Owner and Chairman of Rockler Companies, Inc. The company, a supplier of woodworking hardware, supplies and tools, operates retail stores, a catalog under the name of Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, and websites, including [rockler.com](http://rockler.com)

Ann Jackson's dedication and hard work for over 40 years, along with many talented staff members, have fueled the company's growth. Along with the stewardship of her team, she has expanded the catalog's mailing to several million, and opened 29 retail stores across the U.S. She has served on many for-profit and non-profit boards over the past thirty years.

Katie Cunningham is a professional actor based in New York City. A proud graduate of Sarasota's FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training (M.F.A.) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., Phi Beta Kappa), Katie has appeared on numerous stages across the country. This season, Katie is a guest artist at Asolo Rep, one of the only remaining professional theatre companies operating on a true rotating repertory schedule. In addition to her acting career, Katie teaches acting at Princeton's McCarter Theatre Center and co-founded NYC theatre company, The Night Shift, in 2009.

Lucille O'Neal is best known as the mother of NBA Basketball Star Shaquille O'Neal, but she is also the author of a motivational book titled *Walk Like You Have Somewhere to Go* - a story about her exceptional life journey as an unwed teen mother, struggles with alcohol and her determination to get a college degree in her 40s. O'Neal has endured poverty, rejection, abuse, addiction, and the illness of a child, yet today her faith and compassion for others are stronger than ever.

O'Neal has also contributed to the development of the SHAQ NETWORK as the Chief Operations Officer. In addition to the duties in her son's organization, Lucille co-founded the

Mother's of Professional Basketball Players (MPBP) and served four years as executive secretary (1996-2000) and is currently President of the restructured organization; The Mother's of Professional Basketball Players, Inc.

Lucille has made countless contributions to various charities. After 30 years of raising two sons and two daughters, Lucille resumed her studies in an Adult Education Program at Bethune-Cookman University where she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration (June 2003). In 2005 she completed her graduate program (Master of Arts in Organizational Management) at the University of Phoenix.

Frank Sanchez, Jr., is a 40-year veteran of the Boys & Girls Club Movement. As the National Vice President of Sports, Entertainment and Alumni Development, his responsibilities include the development and implementation of a National Alumni Strategy in addition to managing BGCA's celebrity and alumni relationships. Prior to this, Mr. Sanchez was Vice President of Corporate & Partner Relationships where he ensured that BGCA was exceeding the expectations and outcomes of its many corporate partners.

Additionally, Sanchez is considered a national expert in the area of youth gangs; he was invited to sit on President Clinton's task force on "School Violence," and Mrs. Clinton's task force on "Advancing Education in the Hispanic Community."

Prior to joining BGCA professional staff, Sanchez grew up at the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club, joining when he was only six years old. According to Sanchez, "The Club had the most profound impact on my life, it helped me overcome the lure of street gangs by providing me with a different sort of gang, one where I could become involved in positive activities supervised by caring adults."

Hayley Wielgus anchors ABC 7 News at 5, 6 and 11 p.m. She is also one of the station's health reporters. Before coming to Sarasota, Hayley was a reporter and weekend anchor at KYTX CBS 19 in Tyler, Texas. Prior to CBS 19, Hayley worked for Bloomberg Television in Washington, D.C. She covered the economy and political happenings on Capitol Hill, as well as the 2008 Presidential Election. Hayley was born and raised in Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism from Texas A&M University. She received her Master of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Hayley is actively involved in the Suncoast community. She is a Certified Coach of the Sarasota Special Olympics swim team and a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast. Hayley is a member of the Junior League of Sarasota and received the 2011-2012 Community Impact Award. She is also a member of Designing Daughters and a Goodwill Manasota ambassador. Hayley is a fitness fanatic and enjoys spending time with her rescue rat terriers, Mattie and Jade.

***About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County:***

*The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County have played an integral role in the Sarasota County community for more than 44 years, providing daily programs and services to thousands of young people. The Mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The vision is to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.*

**About the Women's Leadership Council:**

Women who serve as ambassadors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County to impart the Clubs' vision to provide a Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who walks through the doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.