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**VISION 2020 DELEGATES SUCCEED IN STATE INITIATIVE  
TO ADD WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

PHILADELPHIA- (October 30, 2013)- In a successful implementation of the Vision 2020 goal to increase the number of women in senior leadership positions, Vision 2020 Delegates Marcia Coné and Susan Colantuono recently released a report of the Rhode Island Government Appointments Project that indicates the state is making substantial strides toward gender equality. In just three years, the percent of women serving on state commissions and boards has more than doubled.

Women hold 34 percent of state appointments compared to 15 percent when Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee was elected in 2010, according to the Rhode Island Government Appointments Project (RI-GAP) [report](#). Three of the Governor's top six senior staff members are women.

RI-GAP is an example of projects that [Vision 2020](#) Delegates across the country have developed to advance women's economic and social equality. RI-GAP, a non-partisan effort, is led by Coné, founding Executive Director of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, and Colantuono, Founder and CEO of Leading Women.

In 2010, RI-GAP garnered commitments from the Rhode Island gubernatorial candidates to address gender equity by increasing the number of women in leadership positions in state government and on state boards and commissions. The recently release report shows that of Gov. Chafee's 1071 board appointments, 441, or 41 percent, are women.

"Congratulations to our Vision 2020 Delegates for making gender equity a priority in state government and to Gov. Chafee for fulfilling his commitment," said Lynn Yeakel, founder and co-chair of Vision 2020. "We hope this report inspires elected officials in local and state governments nation-wide to address gender inequities in key leadership roles. Studies indicate that government as well as business benefit from diversity in leadership."

Vision 2020, a project of Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, is a national coalition of organizations and individuals united in the commitment to achieve women's economic and social equality. It champions shared leadership among women and men with a goal of 50-50 by the year 2020, when the nation celebrates the centennial of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Vision 2020 is comprised of 75 Allied

organizations representing over 20 million people, 135 Delegates across the country, including Coné and Colantuono, who work to advance the Vision 2020 mission and 12 National Advisors providing strategic guidance.