

## *Vision 2020 Fourth National Congress Gathers Leaders to Advance Women's Equality*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – May 22— Vision 2020, a national initiative to advance women's economic and social equality, gathered new Delegates and Allies and its larger network of women leaders from across the country for the Fourth National Congress earlier this month.

Vision 2020 welcomed more than 50 new National Delegates and 40 long-term Delegates who met in Philadelphia to learn how their work can make a positive impact on women's equality in their community and collectively across the United States. Over half of Vision 2020's 81 National Allies were represented.

More than 300 people from the surrounding tri-state area participated in many of the special events throughout the Congress. These included the *Women's Wit & Wisdom* Luncheon with best-selling author Lisa Scottoline, and a discussion on the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that granted women's suffrage at the National Constitution Center hosted by its President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen.

“We are thrilled to report that the Vision 2020 Congress was a resounding success in terms of Delegate participation, National Ally representation, programming and ideas generated,” said Lynn Yeakel, Founder and Executive Director of Vision 2020, a center within Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership.

“It was a heartening experience to welcome so many new Delegates, Allies and Vision 2020 national leaders as we discussed the status of women's leadership and key actions to bring equality in sight.”

Congress participants identified ways to engage younger generations in achieving four Vision 2020 goals by the year 2020. The goals are in areas of Education, Women in Senior Leadership, Woman and Economic Security, and Women and Civic Engagement.

Vision 2020 honored several outstanding women leaders, including Rachael and Hannah Tipperman, high school juniors who created Robot Springboard in Pennsylvania and received the first Tomorrow Award for their work in STEM; PBS News Anchor Gwen Ifill, who received the Pioneer Award; and the immediate past president of the American Bar Association, Laurel Bellows, who received the Visionary Award.

In a *Shared Leadership among Women and Men* working breakfast presented in collaboration with Catalyst, Inc., prominent men leaders in the Philadelphia business community participated with Delegates and community guests.

Participating in the May 5 evening program was Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter, who will serve as honorary co-chair of the Centennial Advisory Committee working with Vision 2020 and the National Constitution Center to plan for the National Centennial Celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to be held in Philadelphia in the year 2020.

Vision 2020 announced that the Fifth National Congress will take place in Nashville, TN in October 2015 in conjunction with the TN Economic Summit for Women and the dedication of a Suffrage Memorial.

Vision 2020, a Center within 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. Its mission is to advance shared leadership among women and men to reach 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 81 Allied organizations representing over 20 million people, 135 Delegates across the country who work to advance the Vision 2020 mission and 12 National Advisors providing strategic guidance.