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CHAMBER'S 149TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATES NEW VISION & FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Keynote speaker NASCAR champion Julia Landauer shares her trailblazing story

SAN DIEGO (Feb. 13, 2020) – For 149 years, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has served as the region's leading advocate for business and driver of initiatives to benefit the community. Tonight, business, community, and elected leaders will gather for the organization's annual Anniversary Celebration. The event will celebrate the Chamber's members and partners, and the accomplishments achieved over the past year. The Chamber will share its priorities for 2020, and a new vision to include an even greater focus on the community at large: making the San Diego region the best place to live and work. 2020 Board Chair Caroline Winn will share plans for a new Chamber initiative around inclusive gender equity.

"It's about helping businesses succeed and doing what's right for our community as a whole," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "We are working to strengthen our commitment to legislative and community affairs, foster meaningful member connections, and embrace an expanded mission that amplifies the strengths of LEAD San Diego."

The Chamber's work will focus on four priorities that support the vision of making the San Diego region the best place to live and work: advocacy, networking and connecting, building a robust membership, and professional leadership and development which will be driven through Chamber affiliate LEAD San Diego. The Chamber will also lead a new initiative to increase the region's focus on gender equity. Specifically, promoting inclusive gender diversity in leadership positions and working to increase the number of women serving on corporate and nonprofit boards as well as state and local government commissions.

"The community looks to the Chamber as a leader and a resource when it comes to business and the success of our region," said Chamber Board Chair Caroline Winn, Chief Operating Officer of SDG&E. "Building a more inclusive business community is not just the right thing to do, it also make great business sense. Our responsibility is to ensure that our businesses and workforce have what they need to thrive and I am very excited to have the opportunity to lead the Chamber with inclusivity and collaboration as key focus areas."

The event's featured speaker is two-time champion NASCAR racer Julia Landauer. Landauer has been challenging racing stereotypes since she was a teenager - and became the youngest and first female driving champion from the Skip Barber Racing Series. Her trailblazing story serves as inspiration for women striving to break into male-dominated fields and gives confidence to anyone to go after their goals and dreams. She will share insights she has gained along her road to success and how opportunities are created when we challenge assumptions and go "full throttle" to break the mold.

The Chamber will present two awards to local leaders who have made a difference in the community and represent what truly makes San Diego unique.

- Margaret Iwanaga Penrose, President and CEO of Union of Pan Asian Communities, will receive the "Herb Klein Spirit of San Diego" award which honors someone who has made a significant and lasting impact on our region. Penrose has devoted her nearly 30 year career to the San Diego community, especially creating opportunity for Asian, immigrant, and refugee communities.
- Dr. Stephen Kingsmore, President and CEO of Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine, will receive the "Moving San Diego Forward" award which recognizes work that is improving San Diego, and putting it on the map. Dr. Kingsmore is recognized for his work that saves and improves children's lives, and for being a leader nationally for pediatric genomic sequencing and personalized medicine.

For highlights from the 2020 Anniversary Celebration, search the hashtag #Chamber149 on social media.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit [SDChamber.org](https://www.sdchamber.org) or call 619-544-1300.

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