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### WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES

**LISA LING – INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT, HOST AND PRODUCER – AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

[www.CCWC-Fresno.org](http://www.CCWC-Fresno.org)

Fresno, CA – Tickets are now on sale for a day of inspiration, growth and knowledge planned for women across the Valley at the [29th Annual Central California Women's Conference](#). CCWC is the largest women's event in the Valley and will be from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016, at the [Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center](#).

The theme of this year's event is #NoLimits. Attendees will be inspired to live their lives with no limits in areas including careers, relationships, and, most importantly, their own personal growth.

Lisa Ling, executive producer and host of CNN's *This is Life*, is this year's keynote speaker. Ling exploded on the journalism scene as a young reporter on *Channel One News*. Ling went on to co-host ABC's hit show, *The View*, which won its first daytime Emmy during her time on the show. She was a correspondent for *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and contributor to ABC News' *Nightline* and National Geographic's *Explorer*.

Ling is also known for the highly publicized event of her sister Laura's kidnapping in North Korea. She and her sister later penned *Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea and the Other's Fight to Bring her Home*.

"I can't wait to meet my 3,500 new friends at the 29th annual Central California Women's Conference," said Ling. "Living life with #NoLimits is something we all need to do! See you soon, Fresno."

Women of all ages, ethnicities and economic backgrounds attend the annual Central California Women's Conference. In keeping with the conference mission of empowerment, to date, \$800,000 has been [donated](#) to the Valley community to support women's and children's community benefit organizations.

Conference [Board](#) president, Nené Casares, said attendees will be especially pleased with the depth and breadth of topics presented at the event. "Every year we work hard to bring our attendees what they want –

and this year we have it all.” She also shared news about the launch of the PG&E/CCWC *She Makes a Difference Contest*. “We are excited to honor one woman who through her efforts has changed her life, the lives of her family, or lives in the community with her courage, strength and wisdom to make a difference,” said Casares.

The morning Warm-Up Session kicks off the conference by honoring 20 under-served young women who will receive the Wells Fargo/CCWC College and Career Preparation Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of need, promise and the students' commitment to create positive change. Also in attendance at the conference will be the five AT&T/CCWC/Central California Education Opportunity Center (CCEOC) Re-Entry Scholars.

Morning keynote speaker Pegine Echevarria will then take the stage as the 29<sup>th</sup> annual event begins. New York Newsday calls Echevarria “a walking one-woman antidote to cynicism.” She is an internationally-recognized motivational speaker, humorist, and researcher regarding personal and professional development for women and girls. Pegine was the Latina spokesperson for Clorox Latino and keynoted with two U.S. Presidents and authors John Maxwell and Suze Orman, among others.

Attendees choose three [breakout sessions](#) to attend throughout the day from 21 options. Topics include career development, health and fitness, money and finance, family and parenting, spirituality and courage, service and activism, and strength and change. Director of Marketing and Development, Jan Edwards agrees with Casares. “This year’s speaker line-up could be the best in our 29-year history,” said Edwards. “Where can you hear a former gang member make you laugh and cry while sharing how she achieved the pinnacle of success as a motivational speaker? Only at CCWC 16!”

The keynote luncheon will be held in the new Exhibit Hall with Lisa Ling speaking.

Attendees also have the opportunity to visit the conference Marketplace and Community Corner where more than 175 businesses and non-profits share information about their products and services. Visitors will be treated to samples, gourmet tastings, information and shopping. “I always come drivin’ on empty, but I always leave with a full bag (of Marketplace goodies) and a full heart,” said long-time conference-goer June Boyce.

The day winds down with the Cool-Down Session where women enter to win prizes, kick off their shoes and relax. This year's Cool-Down speaker, Kat Simmons, is a 28-year veteran of the international comedy club circuit. She has performed via The Improvs, Catch A Rising Star, the Comedy Channel, Evening at the Improv, Fox’s Comedy Tonight, and on Candid Camera.

This year's event is expected to be another early sellout. Tickets are on sale now at \$110 and will go up to \$120 on August 16. Tickets include continental breakfast, all seminars, the celebrity keynote speaker luncheon and the afternoon reception. Tickets are limited to the first 3,500 attendees. Early registration is encouraged. Visit [www.CCWC-Fresno.org](http://www.CCWC-Fresno.org) for additional information.

The conference is made possible through the [support](#) of national and Central Valley businesses. The presenting sponsor is Wells Fargo. Founding sponsors are The Fresno Bee and ABC 30. Community Medical Centers is the Keynote Speaker Sponsor bringing in Lisa Ling. Major sponsors include Granville Homes, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Valley Children’s Hospital, Macy’s, Fresno State, AT&T, Cumulus Media, Chick-fil-A, Univision Radio, Pepsi, Fresno Trade Bindery, The Brownie Baker, and many more.

[Sponsorships](#) and [exhibit booths](#) are available. For sponsorship information contact Jan Edwards [jan@ccwc-fresno.org](mailto:jan@ccwc-fresno.org); for exhibit booth information contact Mary Stabelfeld at [mary@ccwc-fresno.org](mailto:mary@ccwc-fresno.org).

More information about the [conference](#) and [speakers](#) is available at [www.CCWC-Fresno.org](http://www.CCWC-Fresno.org).

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The **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** was founded in 1988 by the late State Senator Ken L. Maddy of Fresno, Calif. The conference is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, non-political organization, and the event is designed to educate, motivate and inspire women to be the best they can be in their professional and personal lives. (Tax I.D. #77-0178140).