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ADVICE FROM 25 OF NATION'S TOP FEMALE BUSINESS LEADERS
NEW BOOK *UPLIFTING LEADERS* (*WHO HAPPEN TO BE WOMEN)*
FEATURES POWERFUL WOMEN, AIMS TO INSPIRE FUTURE LEADERS

CLEVELAND (Jan. 26, 2017) – Women hold only 4 percent of the nation's top CEO positions*.

This staggering gender-based gap at the top was what prompted two business partners, Barbara Brown and Margaret Flynn, to take a deeper look at women in leadership and inspire change.

In their recently published book, [*Uplifting Leaders* \(*Who Happen to be Women\)*](#), Brown and Flynn capture insights and stories of 25 of the nation's most accomplished and influential women in business on how they empower and uplift others as they seek to progress in their lives and careers.

The diverse spectrum of leaders who share their candid insights and advice come from newly instated Nasdaq President and CEO **Adena Friedman**; Campbell Soup Company President and CEO **Denise Morrison**; Cleveland-based KeyCorp Chairman and CEO **Beth Mooney**; and many others. [Full list below boilerplate.]

"I commend [the authors] for sharing their knowledge and wisdom, and the insights of other gifted women, in *Uplifting Leaders*," writes **Stedman Graham** in his review of the book. "The title is apropos as these leaders lift their businesses, families, teams, clients and communities each day."

The book highlights some of the origins and basic principles of the advice provided by these powerful women including lessons from family, learning by listening, mentorship, trailblazing, team collaboration and leaving a legacy.

“The stories show that the paths to successful businesses and powerful leadership differ from leader to leader,” Brown said. “What these leaders have in common is that they carried with them the things that would build their confidence.”

PAYING IT FORWARD

While the book’s lessons are powerful, the authors want to do much more than simply tell stories.

At the heart of the book is a call to action—to “pay it forward” by passing *Uplifting Leaders* and its insights onto other people in their lives.

“The truth is, that while women in the workforce have evolved and gained ground over the years, national statistics show us women aren’t as far along as we hoped,” Brown said. “So, we challenge readers to determine what actions they can take to drive a ‘liftoff’ of more women to the top.”

Readers who desire to create change will glean actionable suggestions to enhance their broad-based skills. Additionally, readers are invited to “pay it forward” by passing the book and its insights on to other people in their life such as a mentor, mentee, friend or coworker.

“Whether in a gesture of gratitude for their help along the way, or in inspiration for the challenges to come, everyone can find a piece of wisdom to share from *Uplifting Leaders*,” Flynn said.

In addition, the authors will **donate 100 percent of the book’s net proceeds** to support the education of young women transitioning out of foster care through the [YWCA Greater Cleveland’s Nurturing Independence and Aspirations \(NIA\) Program](#).

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About the Authors: Co-authors [Barb Brown](#) and [Margie Flynn](#) are the principals and co-founders of Cleveland-based [BrownFlynn](#), a leading corporate sustainability and governance consulting firm. In celebration of their company's 20th anniversary, the pair set out to write a book that inspires leaders with stories of uplifting women who succeeded because of their perseverance, positivity and sense of purpose. *Uplifting Leaders (*Who Happen to be Women)* is now available on [Amazon.com](#). For more info, visit <https://brownflynn.com/about/uplifting-leaders-2/>.

Women Features in *Uplifting Leaders*:

- Virginia Albanese, President and CEO, FedEx Custom Critical
- Jodi L. Berg, President and CEO, Vita-Mix Corporation
- Jenniffer D. Deckard, President and CEO, Fairmount Santrol
- Heather Ettinger, Managing Partner, Fairport Asset Management
- Adena Friedman, President and CEO, Nasdaq
- Susan M. Fuehrer, Medical Center Director, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center
- M. Ann Harlan, Co-CEO, Harlan Partners, LLC; Retired Vice President and General Counsel, The J.M. Smucker Company
- Carla Harris, Vice Chairman, Wealth Management; Managing Director and Senior Client Advisor, Morgan Stanley
- E. Laverne Johnson, Founder, President and CEO, International Institute for Learning, Inc.
- Erika Karp, Founder and CEO, Cornerstone Capital Inc.
- Robin Kilbride, President, CEO and Chairman of the Board, Smithers-Oasis Company
- Ilene H. Lang, Former President and CEO, Catalyst
- Beth E. Mooney, Chairman and CEO, KeyCorp
- Denise Morrison, President and CEO, Campbell Soup Company
- Karen Parkhill, Executive Vice President and CFO, Medtronic
- Sandy Pianalto, Former President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
- Dr. Jean Rogers, CEO and Founder, Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
- Marcella Kanfer Rolnick, Vice Chair, GOJO
- Lisa Sherman, President and CEO, The Advertising Council
- Barbara R. Snyder, President, Case Western Reserve University
- Darla Stuckey, President and CEO, Society for Corporate Governance
- Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, CEO, Dream/Catcher Educational Consulting Service
- Lisa Woll, CEO, US SIF/US SIF Foundation
- Margaret W. Wong, Managing Partner, Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC
- Jacqueline Woods, Retired President, AT&T Ohio

**An April 2016 study about women in leadership conducted by Catalyst, a nonprofit organization with a mission to accelerate progress for women through workplace inclusion. overing women in leadership.*