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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MILWAUKEE'S TOP FEMALE LEADERS TO SHARE PERSONAL STORIES OF INSPIRATION**

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### ***Panel Members to Address the Importance of Leadership Skills at PEARLS for Teen Girls Event***

MILWAUKEE (April 28, 2009) -- PEARLS for Teen Girls will host "Women Inspired to Lead: An intimate evening of conversation and inspiration" on **April 30**. The event will feature an all-female panel addressing what inspires them to lead, whom they inspire and how they achieve success.

The panel will feature six Milwaukee women leaders who will share their personal stories in an informal setting. Panel members include: Thelma Sias, vice president-local affairs for We Energies; Mary Ellen Stanek, managing director, director of asset management and chief investments officer for Robert W. Baird & Company; Tina Chang, CEO of SysLogic Inc.; Dr. Cynthia Ellwood, principal of Hartford University School; Dana World Patterson, owner and president of Visions Etiquette Training and Mood Indigo Nails; Nichelle Montriell, PEARLS alumna and Alverno College freshman. Kimberly Kane, television personality and Director of Client Solutions at the Novo Group, will serve as the moderator.

The "Women Inspired to Lead" **event will begin at 5:30 p.m.** with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment provided by students from Milwaukee High School of the Arts. The event will be held at the historic **We Energies Auditorium, 231 E. Michigan St., Milwaukee.**

PEARLS for Teen Girls, Inc. is a leadership development organization serving at-risk girls ages 10 to 19 in Milwaukee. PEARLS helps girls overcome the challenges of poverty, to achieve in school, take responsibility for their behavior, avoid teen pregnancy, violence and other negative influences, and ultimately, use their personal power to reach their goals and dreams. In 2008 PEARLS served 688 girls citywide. The organization has produced tremendous outcomes:

- 100% of PEARLS high school seniors graduated in 2006, 2007, 2008.
- 90% of '07 grads were accepted to college; 88% of '08 grads were accepted.
- 100% of all PEARLS girls avoided teen pregnancy in 2008.

For more information about PEARLS visit [www.pearlsforteengirls.com](http://www.pearlsforteengirls.com) or call 414-265-7555.