



NEWS RELEASE

Local Columbus Female Entrepreneur Joins Barbara Walters to Speak at Office Depot's National Conference for Women Business Owners

COLUMBUS, Ohio,--February 4, 2005— Kara Trott, President of Quantum Health, LLC., a company offering coordinated healthcare programs for self-insured employee health benefit plans, will join keynote presenter, Barbara Walters, ABC News Correspondent and Emmy-Award Winning Co-Host and Co-Executive Producer of “*The View*” as a featured business panelist at Office Depot’s 5th annual Success Strategies for Businesswomen Conference—Connectivity: People. Ideas. Opportunities.

According to the Center for Women’s Business Research, nearly half (47.7%) of all privately-held businesses in the U.S. are 50% or more owned by women for a total of 10.6 million. What’s more, there are an estimated 51,368 privately-held, 50% or more women-owned firms accounting for 42.7% of all privately-held businesses in Columbus.

According to Sharon Hadary, Executive Director, Center for Women’s Business Research, “Women-owned businesses are expanding in number and employment at twice the rate of all businesses and are generating revenues of nearly \$2.5 trillion.”

The power of women-owned businesses continues to grow exponentially, which Trott knows first hand. Under her leadership, Quantum Health has seen approximately 50% annual growth and now coordinates the healthcare of more than 30,000 members, representing some \$96 million in annual healthcare costs.

Trott will be a featured panelist at Office Depot’s conference this month during a breakout session entitled, “Driving Strategies for Business Success.”

Trott will be in good company. She will be joined by Marsha Firestone, President, Women Presidents’ Organization, a nonprofit membership organization for a diverse group of women presidents who have guided their businesses to at least \$2 million in gross annual sales; Sharon Hadary, Executive Director, Center for Women’s Business Research, the premier source of knowledge about women business owners and their enterprises worldwide and Alta Baker, President and CEO, Safe Haven Enterprises, a manufacturer of custom fabricated, forced-entry/ballistic and blast resistant buildings. The panel of successful women business owners will share the secrets to their success.

“I’m very pleased to be invited to participate in the Office Depot Success Strategies conference as a featured panelist. I’ve received good advice from many individuals as I’ve built my company over the past 6 years,” noted Trott. “It is always a special pleasure when I have the chance to meet with a group of entrepreneurial women. I look forward to sharing my experiences and learning from the impressive list of business leaders who will be attending this important conference.”

The three day-conference will be held at the Boca Raton Resort and Spa in Boca Raton, Fla., and takes place Sunday, February 27-March 1, 2005.

More than 1,000 women from across the country are expected to attend. Other keynote presenters and panelists joining Trott include:

- Kathy Ireland, Chief Designer and CEO of Kathy Ireland Worldwide (KIWW)
- Dr. Maya Angelou, Poet, Author, Educator, Activist and Renaissance Woman
- Nely Galán, Creator and Executive Producer of Fox's hit reality series "The Swan."
- Debbi Fields, Former Chairman and Founder of Mrs. Fields Cookies
- Anne M. Mulcahy, Chairman and CEO, Xerox Corporation
- Barbara Corcoran, Chairman of the Corcoran Group

Office Depot's *Success Strategies for Businesswomen Conference* is recognized as one of the nations most prominent and significant events offered annually to female small business owners. It is open to the public, but limited to the first 1,000 registrants. Those interested in registering may do so online at www.officedepotsuccess.com or by calling 1-888-475-3344. The three-day conference is \$554.

For more information on women-owned businesses, please visit the Center for Women's Business Research at www.womensbusinessresearch.org or for Columbus specific information, please visit <http://www.womensbusinessresearch.org/metronumbers/Columbus.pdf>.

About Quantum Health LLC

Community Coordinated Healthcare™, offered by Columbus, Ohio-based Quantum Health LLC, is an important response to today's runaway healthcare costs and increasing patient dissatisfaction. The program achieves superior cost control through a staff of highly effective care coordinators who advocate for patients and assist physicians and their office staffs in guiding patients through the confusing healthcare process. Over the past five years, the program has held participating employers' annual cost increases to just 5-6%, one-third the national average.

To learn more about *Community Coordinated Healthcare* or Quantum Health, visit www.quantumhealthLLC.com or contact Jon Staub, Director of Marketing at (614) 846-4318, ext.142.

About the Conference

The Office Depot *Success Strategies for Businesswomen Conference* was created in 2001 to provide women in business with networking opportunities, while offering programs and seminars that help them manage their businesses more successfully. The conference also spotlights national professional women's organizations and honors top women in business with Office Depot Visionary Awards and Businesswomen of the Year Awards.

Xerox is the presenting sponsor for the 2005 conference; platinum sponsors are MassMutual and Hewlett Packard. Other supporting sponsors include: Acco, Bic, Canon, Energizer, International Paper, JKG Group, Microsoft and Smead.

For a schedule of keynote speakers and panel business sessions featured and to learn more about the conference, please visit www.officedepotsuccess.com.

About Office Depot

With annual sales of more than \$12 billion, no one sells more office supplies to more customers in more countries than Office Depot. Founded in 1986 and headquartered in Delray Beach, Fla., the company conducts business in 23 countries and employs nearly 50,000 people worldwide.

Office Depot is a leader in every distribution channel – from retail stores and contract delivery to catalogs and e-commerce. The company is the world's number three online retailer – on track to generate \$3B in sales for FY'04. In North America, Office Depot has 923 retail stores in addition to a national business-to-business delivery network supported by 22 delivery centers, more than 60 local sales offices and 13 regional call centers.

The company's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index.

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