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**Sheryl Sandberg and Viola Davis to headline 2017 Texas Conference for Women**

*Registration is now open for state's largest gathering of women*

**AUSTIN** – The [Texas Conference for Women](#) announced today that Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook COO and author of *Lean In* and *Option B*, and Viola Davis, award-winning stage, television and film actress, will keynote the Texas Conference for Women on Thursday, November 2nd, 2017. More than 7,000 attendees are expected to attend the annual event at the Austin Convention Center.

Sheryl Sandberg is Chief Operating Officer at Facebook, overseeing the firm's business operations. She is the best-selling author of *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead* and *Lean In for Graduates* and founder of LeanIn.Org, a global community committed to empowering all women to achieve their ambitions. Sandberg's latest book, *Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy*, was released April 24 and was co-written by Wharton psychologist and best-selling author Adam Grant.

Viola Davis won an Academy Award for Supporting Actress this year for her role in the film adaptation of August Wilson's play *Fences*, directed by Denzel Washington. Davis also earned a Golden Globe, Critics Choice Award, and SAG Award for her portrayal of Rose Maxson. Earlier, she won a Tony Award for the 2010 revival of *Fences* on Broadway. Davis currently stars in the hit ABC drama *How to Get Away with Murder*, for which she became the first African American to win the Emmy for Best Actress in a Drama Series and also earned two Screen Actors Guild Awards, an NAACP Image Award and two Golden Globe nominations. Davis received Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations for her role as "Abileen Clark" in 2011's *The Help*.

"The Conference has once again set itself apart by bringing together change-makers of the highest caliber who are dedicated to advancing equality in society and in the workplace for both women and men," said Johnita Jones, Board President of the Texas

Conference for Women. "These remarkable leaders are redefining growth and leadership opportunities for our attendees."

The 18th annual Texas Conference for Women will host thousands of attendees for a full day of networking, inspiration, professional development and personal growth. In addition to a standout lineup of keynote speakers, the nonpartisan, nonprofit Conference will feature breakout sessions led by experts in the fields of business, philanthropy, health, finance, media and professional development.

With conversations driven by top women leaders from Texas, the Conference will raise awareness about topical issues including pay equity, work-life balance and social media, and will highlight the groundbreaking women who are leading the way.

Among the [100+ speakers](#) at the Conference will be: Luvvie Ajayi, award-winning writer and digital strategist; Mary Jennings Hegar, helped repeal the Combat Exclusion Policy to allow women in military combat and author, *Shoot Like a Girl*; Tiffany Dufu, catalyst for women and girls and author, *Drop the Ball*; Sarah Robb O'Hagan, CEO, Flywheel and author, *Extreme You: Step Up. Stand Out. Kick Ass. Repeat*; and Laura Vanderkam, author, *I Know How She Does It: How Successful Women Make the Most of Their Time*.

Registration is now open for the Conference and early-bird pricing is available through June 2nd. To register or learn more about the event, visit [www.txconferenceforwomen.org](http://www.txconferenceforwomen.org).

To apply for media credentials, please contact Michelle Clark, [mclark@conferenceforwomen.org](mailto:mclark@conferenceforwomen.org).

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