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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9th, 2018

**Keynote Speakers Brené Brown and Shawn Achor
First to Be Announced for 2018 Texas Conference for Women
Registration Opens May 9th for 19th Annual Statewide Conference**

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Conference for Women, now in its 19th year, is part of the largest established network of professional women’s conferences in the country. It will be held in **Austin, TX** at the **Austin Convention Center** on **Friday, November 9th, 2018**. Registration opens on **Wednesday, May 9th** with over 7500 tickets expected to sell-out within 30 days as they did in 2017. More keynote speakers will be announced on our [website \(txconferenceforwomen.org\)](http://txconferenceforwomen.org) later this week.

Keynote speakers will include best-selling author **Dr. Brené Brown**, known for her groundbreaking talks including “The Power of Vulnerability,” one of the top 5 most-viewed TED talks in the world with over 30 million views. The author of four #1 *New York Times* bestsellers: *The Gifts of Imperfection*, *Daring Greatly*, *Rising Strong* and *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and The Courage to Stand Alone*, has spent the past two decades studying courage, vulnerability, shame and empathy. Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston where she holds the Huffington Foundation – Brené Brown Endowed Chair at The Graduate College of Social Work. Her new book, *Dare to Lead: Bold Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts.*, is scheduled for publication in October 2018.

Shawn Achor is another keynote speaker. A *New York Times* bestselling author, Achor is an expert on the connections between happiness and success and author of *The Happiness Advantage* and *Before Happiness*. His most recent book, *Big Potential: How Transforming the Pursuit of Success Raises Our Achievement, Happiness, and Well-Being* just hit the shelves in January. Achor spent 12 years at Harvard, where he won over a dozen distinguished teaching awards and delivered lectures on positive psychology in the most popular class there. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard and earned a Master’s of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in Christian and Buddhist ethics. Achor has now worked with over a third of the Fortune 100 companies and with the NFL, the Pentagon and the U.S. Treasury. In 2014, Oprah Winfrey did a two-hour interview with Achor on the science of happiness and meaning. His research has made the cover of the *Harvard Business Review* and his TED talk is one of the most popular of all time with over 14 million views and his lecture airing on PBS has been seen by millions.

“Once again, the Texas Conference for Women has brought together some of the most impressive voices and leading experts on gender equality, pay equity, personal empowerment and career success in a pivotal moment in our history,” said Carla Piñeyro Sublett, Board President of the Texas Conference for Women.

The **Texas Conference for Women**, Stephanie Turner, Liberty Mutual’s Director of Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Programs said, “Liberty Mutual is making a significant investment in Texas, building our presence in Plano at a rapid pace, with a target of more than 4,000 positions in our new Legacy West facility. It’s no surprise that we would want to show our support for the largest professional women’s conference in Texas and give many of our own employees access to this incredible development opportunity. We are proud to be back as a sponsor this year and look forward to another memorable event.”

The nonpartisan, nonprofit Texas Conference for Women is the largest of its kind in Texas. Breakout sessions are led by more than 100 experts in the fields of leadership, philanthropy, health and wellness, finance, media, personal branding and professional development. Some of the over 100 speakers at this year’s Conference include **Lori Nishiura Mackenzie**, executive director of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University; **Dr. Jen Welter**, the first female NFL coach and author of *Play Big*; **Nathalie Molina Niño**, CEO of Brava Investments and author of *Leap Frog: 50 Hacks for Women Entrepreneurs*; **Luvvie Ajayi**, award-winning writer and digital strategist and **Dani Rylan**, founder, National Women’s Hockey League and one of *Fast Company*’s “Most Creative People in Business 2016.”

The Texas Conference for Women is generously sponsored by [Target](#); [Rackspace](#); [Cisco](#); [Dell](#); [Liberty Mutual](#); [RetailMeNot](#); [USAA](#); [Accenture](#); [Applied Materials](#); [Arm](#); [Charles Schwab](#); [Harvard Business School Executive Education](#); [HomeAway](#); [IBM](#); [Oracle](#); [Phillips 66](#); [Qualcomm](#); [HEB](#); [Texas Beverage Association](#); [Deloitte](#); [Dickinson Wright PLLC](#); [ExxonMobil](#); [Huston-Tillotson University](#); [Kate Spade](#); [Merck](#); [Paula’s Choice Skincare](#); [Planview](#); [Silicon Labs](#); [Tokyo Electron](#) and [UnitedHealthcare](#); and media partners [Clear Channel Outdoor](#), [KVUE](#) and [The Texas Tribune](#).

Registration for the Conference opens **Wed., May 9th, 2018**. To register or learn more about the 19th annual Texas Conference for Women, visit [our website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) or like us on [Facebook](#). For media credentials, please send requests to media@conferenceforwomen.org or fill out the online credential application.

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