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Washington Metropolitan-Area Leading Businesswomen Form WE Capital to Invest in Female-Led Social Impact Companies

Dr. Sachiko Kuno and Sheila C. Johnson are disrupting traditional venture capital models by launching a consortium of businesswomen with initial commitments totaling over \$12M

The Problem: Only 3% of venture capital dollars currently go to companies with female CEOs. (*Babson College*), and less than 6% of those making investment decisions at venture capital firms are women (*Fortune*).

The opportunity: With research showing that an increase in the share of women in top management positions from zero to 30 percent is associated with a 15 percent rise in revenue (*Peterson Institute for International Economics*), and companies with a female founder performed 63% better than all-male founding teams (*First Round*), the opportunity for a new model of investing is clear.

Disrupting the antiquated investment model is WE Capital.

WE Capital is a consortium of women in the nation's capital that invests in the power of women to change the world. The consortium believes in the tremendous potential of women seeking financial returns *and* social impact, and its strategic approach gives female investors a platform with the potential to achieve financial returns, redefine the culture of investing, and empower future female leaders.

On the investee side, WE Capital offers gender diverse management teams the capital and mentorship they seek to grow their businesses while addressing today's critical social issues. It provides an ecosystem of continuous support, connections and resources to empower female leaders, drive business success and achieve transformational social impact.

WE Capital investors have a history of substantial business success and dedication to social impact. Founder **Dr. Sachiko Kuno** has been globally successful with businesses like R-Tech Ueno Ltd. and Sucampo Group, and has led social impact nonprofit organization S&R Foundation (Halcyon Incubator). Contemporaneously, founder **Sheila C. Johnson** has been successful with leading organizations like Salamander® Hotels & Resorts and television network BET, while championing social impact organizations like the Leadership Council at Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.

Other notable WE Capital businesswomen include **Jodie McLean**, CEO of EDENS, **Michelle DiFebo Freeman**, Owner and CEO of Carl M. Freeman Companies and founding member of Venture Philanthropy Partners, **Patrice King Brickman**, founder and managing director of Inspire Capital, LLC, a venture capital firm that focuses on transitioning not for profit entities into sustainable business models with social impact, **Ami Aronson**, Executive Director of the Bernstein Family Foundation, **Teresa Carlson**, VP of Amazon Web Services, Worldwide Public Sector, **Gail MacKinnon**, Founder and President of Cloverleaf-Solutions, **Carol Melton**, EVP of Global Policy, Time Warner, **Karen Schaufeld**, Founder and President of 100WomenStrong,

Sharon D. Virts, Founder and Chairman of the Board of FCi Federal, Inc., and educator and advocate **Linda Youngentob**.

Powered by Rethink Impact, a female-led venture capital firm (with DC-based Managing Partner Jenny Abramson and SF based Partner Heidi Patel) that multiplies WE Capital's influence, the consortium aims to invest in diverse teams poised for success. This consortium of female investors, through their investment in Rethink Impact, offers gender diverse management teams the capital and mentorship they seek to grow their businesses and address today's critical social issues.

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To learn more about WE Capital, please visit wecapital.co for more information.

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