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**Women in International Trade – Los Angeles Receives Prestigious *Bob Kleist Leadership Award*
From Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce During World Trade Week 2015
- Beverly Hilton Hotel**

LOS ANGELES – Women in International Trade – Los Angeles [WIT-LA] was presented the prestigious **Bob Kleist Leadership Award** by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the 89th Annual World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast held in Los Angeles in May 2015. The Chamber of Commerce selects awardees which have demonstrated outstanding leadership, contributed uniquely to the international trade community, have fostered innovation and promoted future growth in international business & global trade.

Keynote Speaker Bret Johnsen - SpaceX and Special Guest Speaker Maria Contreras-Sweet - U.S. Small Business Administration were joined by more than 600 Southern California business executives and representatives of the diplomatic corps from over 30 countries to celebrate the kickoff of World Trade Week where more than \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded to 17 local high school and college students.

WIT-LA is one of the select leading-edge Southern California trade organizations with its global reach through the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT). OWIT is an organization with over 3,000 members worldwide. WIT-LA focuses on the advancement of career and trade opportunities in Southern California, and is celebrating its 30th year of providing educational programs and networking opportunities for its membership of women and men in all facets of international trade, industries, and business sectors.

Upon acceptance of the Award, WIT-LA President, Lilia Navarrete, issued the following statement:

“On behalf of Women in International Trade – Los Angeles, I am proud to accept the Bob Kleist Leadership Award from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. This Award recognizes those organizations which are committed to demonstrating inspirational and visionary leadership in the development of world trade in Southern California, including providing educational opportunities to advance global trade. WIT-LA provides the unique opportunity for women and men in the Los Angeles metropolitan region to learn about global trade and advance their careers and skills in such areas as customs & trade law, import/export compliance, risk management issues, transportation challenges, and other trade-related services. Through its programs & webinars as well as its networking events, WIT-LA continues to provide professional enrichment in developing the expertise of its members for planning and executing business opportunities involving international trade. WIT-LA is the organization to turn to for expertise & networking in global trade.”

About WIT-LA

Women in International Trade - Los Angeles (WIT-LA), serving the international trade community in the Southern California area is a California non-profit organization founded in 1985 by professional women involved in international trade to provide professional and personal enrichment to its members. For additional comments, please contact Lilia Navarrete, President, Women in International Trade – Los Angeles, 626-862-3292, email: info@wit-la.org , website: WWW.WIT-LA.ORG

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