



## Notice for media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Chamber announces initiative to advance female business leaders** *Empower to launch in September 2018*

DAYTON, Ohio – The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce has announced an innovative new initiative to excel women business leaders in the Dayton region.

The program, ‘Empower’, will use in-depth leadership workshops combined with engaging day-sessions, business coaching and an extensive network of training support to help participants identify individual leadership strengths, values and goals, develop a personal brand and eliminate barriers to advancement.

“The chamber team recognized a gap that exists in many metros across the country; the number of women in top-level executive positions in our business community doesn’t proportionately reflect the number of educated women in our community who have the skills to lead companies,” said Chris Kershner, executive vice president, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

According to Emsi, a labor market analytics firm, there are 622 c-suite executive positions in the Dayton region. Of those, 144 are occupied by women. When compared to numbers that show women hold 51.5% of all management and professional positions nationally, and that 40% of U.S. MBA grads are women, the chamber found a need for programming that will advance women business leaders to top-level business roles.

Through a strategic partnership with Aileron, the region’s world class leadership and training development center, Empower will provide participants with a unique blend of hands-on business coaching and group support with peers.

The initial Empower participant group will consist of approximately 20 business women, and will launch in September 2018. Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2018 at [DaytonChamber.org](http://DaytonChamber.org)

#### **About Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce**

*The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce brings together more than 2,400 businesses and organizations in a 9 county area surrounding Dayton, Ohio. The Chamber strives to improve the region’s business climate and overall standard of living through public policy advocacy, economic development initiatives and providing networking and training opportunities for its members. Nationally awarded with “5-Star Accreditation” from the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Dayton Chamber is widely recognized for its innovative programs and outstanding contribution to positive change in the region. Information about the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is available at [daytonchamber.org](http://daytonchamber.org) or 937-226-1444.*

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