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FOR IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUOUS RELEASE

**12th Annual Connecting Faith & Business Summit
Attracts Nationally Recognized Speakers and UnSung Heroes in Business & Service
Thursday, October 10, 2019**

Riverside, CA – September 10, 2019 -- The 12th Annual Connecting Faith & Business Summit will bring business and faith based leaders together from the Tri-County region of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties, on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at the Riverside Convention Center.

The program will kick off with Registration, Lunch and Networking, and Meet the Vendors at Noon, followed by rotations with business experts in an array of disciplines volunteering their time to help both businesses and non-profits scale with the right resources and partners. Concurrent with the expert rotations, business owners seeking financing will be able to go to a newly featured Green Room for a Lender Match. Community Banks, Regional Banks, National Banks and Non-Profit Lenders will be available to meet with prepared business owners and non-profits on the financing programs available to assist a business or non-profit with working capital, lines of credit, commercial real estate and equipment financing, and related business financing needs. Lenders invited to participate include Wells Fargo Bank, U.S. Bank, Union Bank, BBVA Compass, Citizens Business Bank, Comerica Bank, Pacific Premier Bank, Cathay Bank and CIT Bank.

Following the expert rotations, a dynamic program has been planned to inspire, to equip and to educate participants. The theme of this year's conference is Family Businesses Connecting Faith & Business. Dr. Keanon Alderson, Professor at California Baptist University, Riverside and family business expert will moderate the afternoon program slated to kick off at 3:00 p.m. A panel of family business owners will feature an engineering company founded by the father and passed down to his son; a second generation franchise operation that is now run by the children; and a car parts distributor run by a

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husband and wife. Jeff Abbot from Convene, a faith based business coach group and Chair of the local IE Barnabas Chapter, will moderate the panel. Two leading professionals in their field will provide business tips for participants, including Marcus Piquet, RPB, CPAs, will discuss ESOPS – an option for family businesses to exit and elevate their employees; and Vikita Poindexter, Poindexter Consulting, an expert witness for HR issues and human resource consultant will discuss what employers should look out for with Dynamex and other new state personnel laws. The highlight of the afternoon will be the inspiring business journeys of the 2019 Connecting Faith & Business Award winners who have been selected in the following categories – Character Award, Faith through Works and the Development Award. The program will also recognize two incredible Civic leaders who are known for their faith in how they govern as Mayors of local cities – Mayor Acquanetta Warren, City of Fontana and Mayor Rusty Bailey, City of Riverside. The program and networking will conclude by 6pm.

We urge that the conference does not stop on Thursday. On Sunday, October 13th, we have designated that day as Business Sunday. We are encouraging churches and faith based leaders to take time to pray for business leaders within their congregations or houses of worship. We have shared ideas on other steps faith based groups can take on Business Sunday by hosting a meet and greet; or planning coffee with business owners, or something meaningful that says to business leaders, we recognize your sacrifice and the difference you are making in communities and families as job makers. If churches need ideas for Business Sunday, visit www.connectingfaithandbusiness.com.

The Connecting Faith & Business Summit started in 2007 when AmPac Tri-State CDC launched its operation as the nation's only faith based Certified Development Company (CDC or 504 Lender) in the country, determined to lead the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in connecting faith and business. The goals: to intentionally market to business owners who had a personal or business tie to the faith based community. After consultation with its Pastor's Advisory Committee and a visit with the SBA's District Director from Orange County, Adalberto Quijada, it was settled. We would establish a conference to bring business and faith based leaders together for education, inspiration and meaningful connections. AmPac was determined to do it right here in the Inland Empire. AmPac often reflects on the very first Summit where about 75 participants attended. The first keynote speaker was a well-



known business leader in Riverside and throughout the State, as well as a decorated war veteran, Mr. Robert Wolf. Mr. Wolf re-counted a time in war when one of his colleagues in battle was saved from an enemy attack when a stray bullet to his head hit his head gear but it did not hit him because his Bible was under his helmet. He quipped in his speech to the audience of business and faith based leaders, “If you have ever had to make payroll, you are a person of faith.” The conference has grown significantly over the past 11 years, with the same firm commitment to allow business leaders and faith based leaders to come together to learn best practices and new tools; to meet resource partners, and establish meaningful connections around their faith. The conferences have been known to draw tears and stories of victory overcoming obstacles that can only be explained by miracles of faith. The goal is for participants to leave the conference with “right now” implementation strategies to scale and to thrive, and to be propelled by their faith to know that nothing is impossible with God.

The initial partnership with the SBA for the first conference extended to the SBA partners, including the IE Small Business Development Center, the IE Women’s Business Center, SCORE Chapters and an array of banking partners and non-profit partnerships committed to connecting faith and business including Thrivent Financial and KSGN, Family Friendly 89.7FM. These partnerships continue today and new sponsors have joined this effort, including Wells Fargo Bank, Citizens Business Bank, US Bank, Union Bank, Cathay Bank, BBVA Compass, Comerica Bank, KKLA 99.5 FM, Entrepreneur’s Insurance and a host of other friends and partners.

Learn more about the conference by visiting www.connectingfaithandbusiness.com or go to www.ampac.com to register today. All Pastors and faith based leaders are provided complimentary admission to the conference and may contact AmPac directly to register at 909-915-1706.

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