



LGBT Business Leadership Summit Convenes in Sacramento *Western Business Alliance represents 2700+ businesses, 7 states*

March 18, SACRAMENTO—The Western Business Alliance, a regional organization of LGBT chambers of commerce representing more than 2,700 LGBT-owned and supportive businesses in seven states, met for the first time in Sacramento this week for the organization’s annual Leadership Conference.

LGBT chambers from Seattle, Tacoma, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Silicon Valley, San Francisco and Sacramento were represented at the three-day conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento.

“We are proud to host the Western Business Alliance annual conference in the capital of one of the world’s largest economies, California,” said Paul Weubbe, president of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, which represents LGBT business owners and professionals in a six-county region.

The conference agenda included leadership and organizational operations training, allowing chambers to share and adopt best practices, but also gave regional business leaders an opportunity to discuss and develop big-picture strategies addressing challenges impacting economic development and the small business environment, said Louise Chernin, president and CEO of the Greater Seattle Business Association, which represents 1,100 members. At today’s session, conference participants discussed how LGBT chambers can provide leadership in addressing homelessness, which challenges many of the cities represented, and brainstormed ideas for a regional LGBT economic summit.

“The most important benefit of our WBA conferences is to bring us together to share our knowledge and experience, leveraging the power of LGBTQ business leaders to provide strength to our communities,” Chernin said.

About the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley

Established in 1999 to give exposure to the LGBT business community, the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley is the largest not-for-profit corporation in Silicon Valley for LGBT businesses comprised of LGBT and LGBT-supportive business owners and professionals. For additional information, visit www.rainbowchamber.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Roark Clayton roark@rainbowchamber.org 408-390-2197

###