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*For Immediate Release:*

**Rhonda Grayer, President of WT Stevens Construction Inc., a Woman- and Minority-owned Firm Awarded a Multi-million Contract to Replace Contaminated Pipes in Flint, Michigan, to Serve as the Keynote Speaker for the Urban League of Louisiana's 2018 Women-In-Construction Convening**

*(New Orleans) September 14, 2018* - The Urban League of Louisiana's Women's Business Resource Center will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women in Construction Convening on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at the New Orleans Jazz Market, 8:30a-4:30p. The event's 2018 title sponsor is AARP-Louisiana. Other sponsors include the New Orleans Jazz Market and Louisiana Economic Development.

The Urban League of Louisiana is proud to provide a convening of this magnitude that will initiate targeted conversations that yield specific solutions and measurable outcomes for women in construction. This year's theme is "Balancing Growth and Operational Leadership". Participants will gain insights into the importance of a balanced approach to scaling their businesses, one that includes both growth strategies and operational effectiveness. Sessions include:

- Scale Up! Strategies and Tools for Growing Your Construction Firm the Right Way
- Murphy's Law: How to Avoid the Most Common Pitfalls of Contract Management
- The Dating Game: Mastering the Courting Process for Strategic Partnerships
- Prime Examples in Operational Integrity
- Tools of the Trade: A Technology Driven Approach to Strengthening Your Back Office and Field Operations

**This year's Women in Leadership Luncheon will feature a fireside chat with Rhonda Grayer, President of WT Stevens Construction, a construction management and services firm based in Flint, Michigan, and the only woman- and minority-owned firm to be awarded a service contract by the City of Flint to replace contaminated water pipes across the city. This conversation, 'Growing in Crisis', will focus on Grayer's experience in managing both growth and operational leadership during a highly publicized and controversial time of economic, political, and environmental fallout.**

This event is geared towards women in construction and construction-related fields including leadership, operations, administrative, and support functions. It is for those seasoned in the field and those who aspire to join.

Registration is \$65/per attendee and includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Registration fees are non-refundable, but may be transferred if necessary.

For the most up-to-date information including session descriptions, program schedule, and speakers, please visit <https://wicc2018.eventbrite.com>, or email us at [wbrc@urbanleaguela.org](mailto:wbrc@urbanleaguela.org).



*About the Urban League*

*The Urban League of Louisiana is one of 90 affiliates of the National Urban League. The mission of the Urban League is to assist African Americans and other communities seeking equity to secure economic self-reliance, parity, and civil rights. The Urban League's three Centers of Excellence are focused in the areas of education and youth development, workforce and economic development, and public policy and advocacy. For more information on the Urban League of Louisiana, visit us online at [www.urbanleaguela.org](http://www.urbanleaguela.org).*

*The Urban League of Louisiana opened the Women's Business Resource Center (WBRC) in July of 2001 and expanded its capacity in 2010 with the development of the Entrepreneurship Center. Combining the efforts and expertise of the agency's existing resources with additional specialized consultants and business resources, the Entrepreneurship Center has significantly increased its capacity to facilitate small business development and to provide business consulting, educational training and other resources to assist aspiring and existing entrepreneurs and other small business owners in eight parishes throughout Southeastern Louisiana.*