

June 2010

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Forum Members,

As we close the 2009-10 fiscal year and prepare to launch our work together for 2010-11, it is befitting to take stock and reflect on the year's accomplishments.

We dedicated this year to honing our strategic plan to bring all of our efforts into alignment with our newly defined mission and vision. We crafted clear, measurable goals for the board and each committee. And we remained committed to accountability and transparency.

So, here is a brief summary of what we accomplished.

We grew our membership by an additional 70 members from the C-suites and executive ranks of the top businesses and entities influencing the sustainability and growth of our region. Our new members include, among others:

- 5 CEOs of leading companies
- 14 EVPs of major area corporations
- 7 executives working in companies in the pharmaceutical and life science industries
- 2 additional university/college presidents bringing our total university and college Forum president membership total to 11

We deepened our relationships with our targeted list of top companies, entities, and organizations across our market by more than 10 percent, establishing an additional 61 connections with those outlets as we:

- Recruited their top women executives for membership
- Established direct referrals from them to our mentee program (to help them build their pipeline of mid-level women managers ready for advancement)
- Cultivated annual sponsorships from them that reinforce their commitment to leveraging the power of executive women within The Forum and their own organizations to advance the impact and influence of women in leadership
- Co-sponsored four CEO Chats for our members, held at Sunoco, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Tastykake and Campbell Soup
- Facilitated, since February 2010, 21 Forum members for consideration for 15 public company board positions across the country
- Partnered with Vision 2020 as they launch their national women's leadership initiative

It has been a fast-paced and exciting year, and we have indeed advanced our mission. The Forum of Executive Women's annual Women on Boards' research is considered the benchmark for the state of affairs in our region, and The Forum's work is now frequently referenced in public meetings, think tank

discussions, and important trade and general press reports. From Mayor Nutter's recent reference to and support of our research initiative when he met with The Forum during our recent day at City Hall to our comments on proposed SEC regulations, which were quoted when the new regulations were issued, The Forum of Executive Women's impact is becoming clear.

Thank you all for your continuing commitment to The Forum and dedication to our mission. And as I have said before, I hope you are realizing your own personal and professional benefits of membership as you connect with other Forum members and participate in our expanding dialogues with the corporate, public service, academic, cultural and social service leaders whose attention we are now drawing.

Enjoy the summer and I look forward to working with you over the next year. Look for my letter in September to hear what's planned by our new board...and check the Web site for details of our continually advancing objectives, strategic initiatives and tactical work!

Ellen Toplin