SUU | **SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
351 West University Boulevard | Cedar City, UT 84720

NEW FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN IN THE THEATRE HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: A newly founded national organization for women in the theatre will holds its inaugural conference in late July on the campus of **Southern Utah University in Cedar City**. Hosted by the newly formed **Statera Foundation**, the goal of the conference is to take action to bring women into full and equal participation in the American theatre and to initiate and support action by individuals, organizations and institutions whose stated goal is to work towards gender balance in the arts. The event is schedule to be held at SUU **July 31 through August 2.**

Co-founded by **Shelly Gaza**, Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Northern Colorado, and **Melinda (Pfundstein) Vaughn**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at Southern Utah University and actor with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, **Statera Foundation**, which derives its name from the Latin word for "balance," strives to serve women in the theatre by expanding employment options, improving salary and removing barriers to growth and achievement through mentorship, internship, research, outreach, networking and support. The goals of **Statera** are to empower women in the theatre to reach their full potential by bridging the gap between passion, preparation and opportunity.

The conference will feature **Mary McColl, Executive Director of Actors' Equity Association**, as Keynote Speaker as well as a distinguished roster of presenters such as Founder and **Executive Director of WomenARTS, Martha Richards; Samantha White, Kathleen Mulligan, Kelly Ground, Gillian Eaton, Kristi Papallier, Patricia Skarbinski, Sarah Greenman, Jennifer Tuttle, Vanessa Ballam** and **Sarah McCarroll** who are accomplished actors, producers, writers, administrators, designers, advocates, technicians and educators. The conference will include breakout sessions on a variety of subjects moderated by these noted professionals. In addition, there will be opportunities for

networking, socializing, sightseeing in nearby national parks and attending performances at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Speaking on behalf of Statera, **Melinda Vaughn** addressed the goals for the conference. "The transient nature of the theatre as a profession can be isolating, especially for female theatre artists, who may sense disparity in the business, without hard data in support of this feeling. Statera Foundation's inaugural conference will bring us face to face to empower and support each other, steer early Foundation efforts, and to create momentum for positive change toward gender balance in the theatre."

For information about or to register for the conference, please visit the **Statera Foundation's** website **www.staterafoundation.org.** The website also includes links to local lodging.

Established in 1897, **Southern Utah University** in Cedar City has grown, evolved and now proudly ranks as Utah's fully accredited liberal arts and sciences university. SUU offers more than 100 acclaimed associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs to meet a broad range of career goals and life aspirations that lead to life and career success. For more information, visit www.suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: STATERA FOUNDATION INAGURAL CONFERENCE

WHAT: Statera Foundation Conference is to take action to bring women into full and equal participation in the American theatre and to initiate and support action by individuals, organizations and institutions whose stated goal is to work towards gender balance in the arts.
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WHO: Statera Foundation

WHEN: July 31 – August 2, 2015

WHERE: Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

TICKETS: www.staterafoundation.org

PRICES: Registration: $150, plus additional fees for specific and related events and donations