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## W.net Announces 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DIVA Award Nominees

*Awards Presentation to Highlight Individuals and Companies Dedicated to Inspiring & Empowering Women in the Electronic Transactions Industry*

(McLean, VA, September 14, 2009) – Women Networking in Electronic Transactions (W.net), the leading organization for the development of women leaders in the electronic transactions industry, is pleased to announce the nominees for its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Driving Improvement Via Action (DIVA) Awards. Now in its second year, the DIVA Awards are W.net's way of honoring the outstanding achievements of individuals, companies and W.net members alike who, throughout the course of the past year, have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to W.net and its mission to inspire and empower women in the electronic transactions industry to maximize their individual potential and position themselves for greater personal success. This year's event will honor winners of the following awards:

"After the overwhelming success of last year's DIVA Awards in Las Vegas, we knew immediately that this would have to become an annual event for W.net," noted Holli Targan, Chair of W.net's Awards & Recognition Committee. "It's a wonderful opportunity for us, as an association, to thank and recognize both the individuals and the businesses that support not only the mission of W.net, but also the industry as a whole."

**The Diversity Champion Award** – recognizing the W.net Corporate Champion sponsor who, over the course of the past year, has exemplified the spirit of diversity through contributions and in practice within their organization and demonstrated leadership in expanding opportunities for women.

**Nominees:** Total System Services, Inc. (TSYS)  
First Data Corporation (First Data)

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**The Spirit Award** – recognizing the W.net committee member who, in addition to all of W.net’s committee members past and present, demonstrates a sincere and genuine commitment to furthering W.net’s mission. The Spirit Award recipient exemplifies outstanding leadership within the association and continuously encourages and motivates their peers to participate in the promotion and continued support of the W.net brand.

**Nominees:** Tina Reese-Blicht, Vice President – National Accounts, BA Merchant Services, LLC  
Sarah Owen, Vice President, First Data Corporation  
Stacia Smith, Manager – Business Development, Epson America, Inc.

**The Strongest LINC Award** – recognizing the Local Interest Networking Circle (LINC) for their outstanding achievements throughout the past year. Demonstrating an unparalleled commitment to the principles that guide the association, the recipient of the Strongest LINC Award is decided upon based on a number of factors based off the annual reports submitted to the Board detailing each LINC’s organized efforts throughout the past year. Such factors include number of meetings held, social events, recruitment and participation, and philanthropic activities.

**Nominees:** LINC Atlanta  
LINC Chicago

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#### **ABOUT W.net:**

Founded in 2005, Women Networking in Electronic Transactions (W.net) is the vision of Mary Gerdts, Linda Perry, Holli Targan and Diane (Vogt) Faro. Collectively, these women represent nearly a century of achievement and unparalleled commitment to, and in, the electronic transactions industry. Leaders and role models in every sense of the word, these women strive to ensure a lasting legacy of women leaders for years and generations to come.

W.net hosts a number of events across North America throughout the year, including Local Interest Networking Circle (LINC) meetings and educational seminars where members can exchange ideas, insights and career development tips; the Designer BootCamp Career Development & Leadership Summit; and its annual awards ceremony and luncheon, The Diva Awards. W.net is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are thereby tax deductible. For more information on the organization, membership and services provided, please visit [www.w-net.biz](http://www.w-net.biz).