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LOS ANGELES SPARKS TO CELEBRATE "INSPIRING WOMEN" ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH

Team to Present Lisa Leslie Inspiring Women Awards as they Take on Tulsa Shock

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Sparks will celebrate women in leadership on "Inspiring Women Night" presented by Farmers Insurance and in partnership with Anthem Blue Cross and East West Bank on Friday, August 6th as they take on the Tulsa Shock at 7:30pm. The night is a chance to honor four extraordinary leaders and recognize the women who uplift and inspire us.

The game will feature a presentation of the second annual "Lisa Leslie Inspiring Women Awards." Leslie has inspired generations of athletes as a three-time WNBA MVP, two-time WNBA Champion, four-time Olympic Gold Medalist and member of the WNBA All-Decade Team. Her slam dunk, the first in WNBA history, was voted the "Greatest Moment" in the league's first decade.

The awards ceremony will include remarks from Los Angeles Sparks owners, Carla Christofferson, Kathy Goodman and Lynai Jones, who as successful businesswomen are trailblazers in their own right. Christofferson, Goodman and Jones represent a limited number of women who own professional sports teams. The 2010 "Lisa Leslie Inspiring Women Awards" will be presented by 2009 Lisa Leslie Inspiring Woman Business Award recipient and VP of Strategic Marketing at Farmers Insurance, Faye McClure.

The Sparks will also host a pregame networking reception with the team's ownership in the Lexus Club at 6:00pm giving attendees the opportunity to connect with some of LA's most inspiring women. Tickets to the pregame reception and Sparks game are still available and can be purchased by calling 877-44-SPARKS or by visiting www.LASparks.com.

Four inspirational women that have made an indelible mark in their field and community from four different industries were selected to receive the awards. The "Lisa Leslie Inspiring Women Awards" will be presented during a halftime presentation on court to the following phenomenal women:

- Dr. Antronette Yancey, Professor of Health Services and Co-Director, UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity, School of Public Health – Education
- Kim Bly, Women's Basketball Coach at LA Trade Tech – Sports
- Dr. Pamela Wiley-Wells, President, Los Angeles Speech & Language Therapy Center – Non-Profit
- Luisa Acosta-Franco, Vice President of Multicultural Marketing, Farmers Insurance - Business

For more information on the Sparks "Inspiring Women Night" co-presented by Farmers Insurance and

Anthem Blue Cross, please visit www.LASparks.com.

2010 Lisa Leslie Inspiring Women Award Recipients:

Antronette K. (Toni) Yancey, MD, MPH is currently a professor at the UCLA School of Public Health and co-director of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity. Dr. Yancey's primary research interests are in chronic disease prevention and adolescent health promotion, with a particular emphasis on interventions engaging underserved communities. She was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Partnership for a Healthier America, the non-profit organization supporting First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign to end the childhood obesity epidemic. Dr. Yancey completed her undergraduate studies at Northwestern University where she was the starting center on the varsity basketball team, her medical degree at Duke, and her preventive medicine residency/MPH at UCLA. She is a basketball enthusiast and poet/spoken word artist published in the public health journals *Preventive Medicine* and the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, and several newspapers.

Kim Bly, coach of the Los Angeles Trade Technical College women's basketball team, brought the winning tradition back to the school during the 2009-2010 season with her wealth of knowledge and experience on the basketball court. Bly began her coaching career at Washington Preparatory High School in Los Angeles, where she attained a 65-38 record over the course of four years. She began her collegiate coaching career at her alma mater El Camino College as an assistant coach for men's basketball team. Since she began coaching at Los Angeles Trade Tech College (LATTTC), Bly's record has improved from 1-23 to 23-4 in the past two seasons. This past season she led the LATTTC Lady Beavers to a 17-0 preseason record, the regional state finals, a third place finish in the South Coast Conference and was voted by her peers as Conference Coach of the Year. Bly emphatically believes in giving back to the community, serving as the co-founder of Play Mode Incorporated – a nonprofit organization that provides mentorship and improves youth social skills – and is a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and the Black Coaches Association.

Pamela Wiley-Wells, Ph.D. is the President and Founder of the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center, Inc. Dr. Wiley's professional career began in 1974 in the Los Angeles Unified School District as a speech and language specialist. During her short tenure with the district she served in several capacities including administration. Dr. Wiley is very involved in her community and serves on the State Board of Directors for the March of Dimes, the Board of Visitors for Claremont Graduate University and Legacy Ladies, Inc. She is also the founder of the Wiley Center "Making a Difference in the Lives of Children" luncheon which for 14 years has recognized and celebrated grandparents who are raising their children in the absence of their parents.

Luisa Acosta-Franco is the Vice President of Multicultural Marketing for Farmers Insurance. She oversees the strategy to increase consumer market share in the Hispanic & Asian markets as well as the strategy for the recruitment of bilingual candidates who want to own their own insurance agency. In addition, she manages all the in-language advertising, marketing materials & strategic partnerships. Acosta-Franco is an integral component of Farmers' strategic marketing growth initiatives. As the first Latina to serve as an Officer at Farmers, Acosta-Franco is responsible for the implementation of marketing strategies including the Hispanic and Asian segments from agency recruitment. She also serves and volunteers on numerous non-profit, political and community organizations including the Champions Board for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE), The Los Angeles Chapter of the March of Dimes and the Corporate Advisory Board for Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

About the Los Angeles Sparks

The Los Angeles Sparks are entering their 14th season in the Women's National Basketball Association. The Sparks are one of the three original teams still operating in the WNBA. In December 2006, the Sparks were purchased by a group of investors, led by Carla Christofferson and Kathy Goodman and they are one of seven WNBA teams owned and operated independent of NBA teams. The Sparks won back-to-back WNBA Championships in 2001 & 2002. The team's roster of star athletes includes 2008 WNBA MVP &

Rookie of the Year Candace Parker, All-Star DeLisha Milton-Jones, four-time WNBA Champion Tina Thompson and 2005 WNBA Champion Ticha Penicheiro. The Sparks play their home games at STAPLES Center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. For Sparks ticket information, call 1-877-44-SPARKS.