

2010 "Power and Possibilities" leadership conference

Written by Elizabeth Kautz
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Burnsville Mayor and St. Kate's alumna Elizabeth Kautz will headline the 2010 "Power and Possibilities" leadership conference at St. Catherine University Wednesday, April 21, 3–5:30 pm in Rauenhorst Ballroom in Coeur de Catherine on the University's St. Paul campus, 2004 Randolph Ave. St. Paul, 55105.

Kautz is currently serving her sixth term as mayor of Burnsville, MN and is president of the United States Conference of Mayors and chairperson of the Suburban Transit Association, as well as co-chair and co-founder of the Minnesota Regional Council of Mayors. She received her master's degree in counseling psychology from the Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago and bachelor's in theology with a focus on psychology from St. Kate's.

She was one of the first women to serve as a professional minister within the Catholic Church, as pastoral minister at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Savage, MN.

In its third year, the conference offers women the chance to get a better understanding of leadership practices and to learn how to apply them in their personal and professional lives. "A lot of people come to connect and reconnect, and learn from women leaders from all over the Twin Cities," said Mary Angela Baker, director of Continuing Education/Leadership Institute at St. Catherine University.

The event, presented by St. Kate's Leadership Institute, typically draws women from different industries and sectors—corporate, nonprofit, education and government. Small-business owners and those toying with the idea of starting their own companies are also among the participants. It is sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio and Honoring Women Worldwide.

In her keynote address "Courage, Commitment and Implementation," Kautz will discuss the important stages of turning a vision into concrete results and share her philosophy on leadership—highlighting the three areas that have shaped her as a leader: business, politics and ministry.

"She is an inspiring and authentic leader," said Baker. "She is passionate about what she does and passionate about giving back." An "authentic" leader, adds Baker, is someone who leads from the heart and stays true to her or his values.