THUNDERBIRD TO TRAIN 25 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FROM 10 COUNTRIES
Second “Global Cohort” co-sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women program

(GLENDALE, Ariz.) June 5, 2012 — Thunderbird School of Global Management will soon welcome 25 women entrepreneurs from 10 Latin American countries to campus for two weeks of intensive business skills training. The program, a partnership with the U.S. State Department and the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women initiative, is the second of three “global cohorts” of women business owners from around the world who will receive training in Arizona. From June 9 through June 24, the women will study entrepreneurship at Thunderbird, visit businesses across the state and meet local female entrepreneurs.

The program is a main component of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Women’s Entrepreneurship in the Americas initiative, which seeks to break down barriers for women starting businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants selected for the competitive Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Entrepreneurship Partnership Program at Thunderbird are emerging women business leaders who run small to midsized companies. They represent a number of sectors — from agro-industrial processors to fashion, home décor, bakeries and traditional handicrafts. Nations represented as part of the second cohort include:

-Argentina -Nicaragua -Honduras
-Bolivia -Paraguay -Panama
-Chile -Guatemala
-Colombia -Jamaica

The Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will serve as a key local partner for this cohort, and has provided valuable logistical and communications support. The 10,000 Women group will participate in site visits, hear from local Latina entrepreneurs in the classroom, and work directly with Phoenix’s Latina Business Enterprise group to finalize parts of their business plan. Chamber members will also participate in several Thunderbird business classes, make presentations and mentor the fellows.

“Phoenix has become a hub for commerce with Latin America, and the 10,000 Women program is a perfect example of an international, joint public-private venture that boosts our mutual economies across the board,” said Gonzalo de la Melena, president and CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a class of 1999 Thunderbird alumnus.

The community is invited to meet the women at a casual open house and global market at Thunderbird’s campus at 59th Avenue and Greenway in Glendale on Monday, June 11 from 2:30-5 p.m. The women will be selling some of their products, and light refreshments will be served. Remarks will be given by Thunderbird’s Interim President, Ambassador Barbara Barrett, and Gonzalo de la Melena.

Thunderbird’s philanthropic arm, Thunderbird for Good, has run programs for entrepreneurs from developing nations since 2004. More than 30,000 participants have attended Thunderbird for Good programs at our campus in Glendale, Arizona, and in the communities where they live and work all over the world. Past projects have trained women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Peru and Jordan, as well as male radio broadcasters and radio station owners from Afghanistan. The first Global Cohort program in January 2012 brought 28 women entrepreneurs from Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Palau, Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Malaysia.
The media is invited to cover Global Cohort programs and may sit in on classes at Thunderbird’s campus. For more information and for a schedule of the Global Cohort agenda, members of the media should contact Samantha Novick, Public Relations and New Media Specialist, at 602-798-7922, or Amy Scerra, Program Manager, at 602-978-7609.

About Thunderbird School of Global Management
Thunderbird is the world’s No. 1-ranked school of international business, with more than 65 years of experience in equipping global leaders with the business skills and global mindset necessary to create sustainable prosperity worldwide. For more about Thunderbird, visit http://www.thunderbird.edu.

About Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women
10,000 Women is a five-year initiative to provide a business and management education to underserved female entrepreneurs in developing and emerging markets. The program is designed to drive greater shared economic growth, leading to stronger healthcare, education and greater prosperity in the communities where it operates. 10,000 Women operates through a network of more than 75 academic and nonprofit partners to provide locally relevant coursework and mentoring. For more information, please visit: http://www.10000women.org

About the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
The Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been a vibrant part of the state's business community for over 63 years. It has an established reputation of actively promoting small business growth in today's increasingly diversified market. The AZHCC serves as the primary advocate for Latino-owned businesses statewide by offering seminars, workshops, marketing and networking events, as well as a variety of well established, high-profile sponsorship opportunities for our corporate and community partners. The AZHCC is a vital link to growing power and influence of the Latino business and consumer market and the health and prosperity of the state and national economy. For more about the AHCC, visit http://www.azhcc.com