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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WOMEN IN DEFENSE SPACE COAST CHAPTER CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF EMPOWER & ELEVATE EVENT, WELCOMING NEW LEADERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Cocoa Beach, FL – November 7, 2024 – The Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter (WIDSC) gathered on October 29th at the Courtyard Marriott in Cocoa Beach for the highly anticipated Empower & Elevate event, bringing together local professionals, inspiring speakers, and key community partners dedicated to learning, networking, and growth. The event delivered powerful insights, unveiled new chapter leadership, and strengthened the mission to empower women in defense.

"The Empower & Elevate event is a cornerstone of our commitment to fostering growth and supporting the aspirations of professionals on the Space Coast," said Sirena Ozzello, WIDSC President. "It provides a forum for networking, learning, and sharing, which is critical to such a dynamic industry. We're excited to see so many talented professionals come together to strengthen our community and further the mission of diversity in defense."

The event's keynote speaker, Dr. Chad Lau, captivated attendees using magic and stagecraft. Unique and fun, his 'Tricks of the Trade' professional development presentation provided invaluable strategies for career advancement, emphasizing the importance of interpersonal skills in professional settings.

David Bragg, PMP, CISSP, ITIL v3 Expert, SMSP, facilitated the official installation of the chapter's incoming 2024-2025 Board of Directors, marking a momentous step forward for the organization. This transition celebrates fresh perspectives and strengthens WIDSC's commitment to supporting women in the defense industry.

In recognition of the new Board of Directors, WIDSC welcomed: Sirena Ozzello, *President*; Jennifer Kennedy-Ness, *Vice President*; Catherine Wright, *Secretary*; Kathy Emerson, *Treasurer*; David Jackson, *Membership*; Leslie Tibbets, *Awards & Recognition*; Tina Christensen, *Historian*; Gail Hart, *Communications*; Elizabeth Huy, *Past President*.

The program also recognized past presidents, Susie Glasgow, Sandy Pfrimmer, and Chapter Founder, Karen J. Gregory. Gregory provided special remarks highlighting the chapter's ongoing



mission to build a more inclusive, diverse defense community and reaffirmed WIDSC's dedication to professional development, leadership, and unity within the Space Coast defense community.

In addition, WIDSC welcomed community partners Stephanie Robinson from CareerSource Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, Teresa Moon from Parabilis, and Erin Minta from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. These partners joined the celebration, sharing valuable resources to support WIDSC's mission and enhance the value offered to members.

### **About Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter**

The Women In Defense Space Coast Chapter (WIDSC) was founded January 21, 2013 and is a 501c3 affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). WIDSC provides networking and professional development opportunities to promote the role of women in national defense and security, to support military service members, and to encourage partnerships within the local contractor community, defense industry and military personnel. See more at <http://widsc.org/>.

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