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**THE FORUM OF EXECUTIVE WOMEN AND PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS
JOURNAL NAME JUDITH M. VON SELDENECK
RECIPIENT OF INAUGURAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

***New Award Recognizes National Contributions of
Female Leaders from Greater Philadelphia***

PHILADELPHIA (June 15, 2021) The Forum of Executive Women and the Philadelphia Business Journal today announced Judith M. “Judee” von Seldeneck, Founder and Chair of Diversified Search Group and one of the founders of The Forum of Executive Women, as the first recipient of their co-sponsored National Leadership Award.

The award was established to honor an executive woman who has a national sphere of influence, a demonstrated commitment to community and civic engagement, a strong reputation for excellence and leadership in her industry, and a track record for active, continuous support of organizational diversity, equity and inclusion and advocacy for female professionals. Lisa Detwiler, President, The Forum of Executive Women and Sandy Smith, Publisher, the Philadelphia Business Journal, presented von Seldeneck with the award at the Annual Meeting of The Forum of Executive Women on June 15.

“The Forum of Executive Women is thrilled to honor Judee as the first recipient of the National Leadership Award,” said Forum President Lisa Detwiler. “We could not think of anyone more deserving than Judee for her trailblazing career, visionary leadership, outstanding civic engagement and her foresight to establish The Forum of Executive Women. We are indebted to Judee for her leadership across so many sectors of the community and for the paths that she has paved for women professionals.”

“The Philadelphia Business Journal has followed Judee for more than 20 years,” remarked Publisher Sandy Smith. “She’s been recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal as one of the region’s most admired CEOs, as well as a Power 100 recipient for multiple years. What a terrific recognition for Judee.”

A pioneer in the search industry, von Seldeneck has identified and placed senior-level executive talent across the country for more than four decades. A born-and-bred North Carolinian, she began her career as an executive assistant to former Senator Walter Mondale on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. After relocating to Philadelphia in the early 1970s, she joined a small firm that specialized in finding temporary jobs for women. She bought out her partners in 1974 and set out to build Diversified Search into one of the largest and most respected executive search firms in the nation. Under her steadfast leadership, Diversified Search grew to more than \$100 million in revenue and 11 offices, ranked by Forbes magazine as one of the top five firms in the United States. The executive search industry has repeatedly recognized von Seldeneck as a trailblazer who has set high standards for the profession. She has actively served on numerous public, private and non-profit boards of directors, including AAA MidAtlantic, Citizens Financial Group, CoreStates Financial Group, Meridian Bancorp, Tasty Baking Company and Teleflex. She currently serves as Global Board Member for AltoPartners, a global alliance of search firms in 63 cities across 36 countries. Diversified Search Group serves as the official U.S. partner for the alliance.

A lifelong champion for the advancement of women regionally and nationally, von Seldeneck was one of the visionary founders of The Forum of Executive Women, which has grown into the largest association of female executive women in Greater Philadelphia with more than 500 members. In addition to this National Leadership Award, she has received dozens of awards and honors to celebrate and recognize her achievements. These include the William Penn Award, the highest honor bestowed by the business community of Greater Philadelphia; the Drexel University Business Leader of the Year Award and the Association of Executive Search Consultants' Eleanor H. Reynolds Award for Excellence in Executive Search. She was also named one of BusinessWeek's Top 50 Most Influential Executive Recruiters in the World and inducted into the Philadelphia Business Hall of Fame.

"It was my honor to be part of starting The Forum of Executive Women in 1977, at a time when women were denied access and opportunities across so many sectors and industries. Seeing the great role that The Forum has played in advancing women leaders and moving the needle for women in leadership, the workplace, and their communities has been a dream come true," said Judee von Seldeneck. "It is amazing how far we've come, and I look forward to our continued progress and success. I am deeply honored to have been selected to receive this award by this particular organization."

About The Forum of Executive Women

Founded in 1977, The Forum of Executive Women is the Greater Philadelphia region's premier women's organization, actively working to increase the number of women in leadership roles, expand their impact and influence, and position them to drive positive change in the Greater Philadelphia region. Forum membership has grown over four decades to comprise more than 500 of the most-senior leaders in corporations, not-for-profit organizations and the public sector throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. Visit www.foew.com for more information.