



Dr. Marsha Firestone
President
Women Presidents'
Organization



Dr. Firestone is founder and president of the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO) for women whose businesses annually gross over two million dollars. The WPO is currently operating in 31 locations nationwide and Canada. Dr. Firestone was previously Vice President of Women Incorporated and of Training and Counseling at the American Woman's Economic Development Corporation (AWED). Prior to her involvement in women's economic development, she oversaw all operations and established educational direction as president of a for-profit educational institution. Her career also includes positions as National Executive Director of the Women's American ORT, a volunteer organization with a membership of over 150,000; a full-time faculty member of the American Management Association Competency-Based Management Development Program; and a faculty member at the City University of New York and Adelphi University.

Dr. Firestone has published research on adult learning theory, nonverbal communication and managerial competency appearing in both business and educational journals, and *The Busy Woman's Guide to Successful Self-Employment*, an interactive, easy to read resource. A frequent guest speaker, her most recent presentations have been at Woman, Inc. in Kingston, Jamaica, Harvard University, Tulane University, The New York City Entrepreneurship Program, The Asian Pacific Women's Institute, The New Jersey

Economic Summit, and Unicul

International in Tokyo, Japan. She is the recipient of a special achievement award from Woman, Inc. of Jamaica and the Applause Award for breaking down barriers for women in business from Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

She earned a Master's degree in Communication from Teacher's College of New York, as well as a Ph.D. in Communication from Columbia University, where Margaret Mead sat on her dissertation committee. Dr. Firestone is also involved in numerous community activities including New York Women's Agenda, the Board of Advisors of the Women's Leadership Initiative at Harvard's Kennedy School, the Board of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, the Merrill Lynch Diversity Advisory Council, the American Express Open Network Advisory Council, the advisory councils of Sherpa and Women's Financial Network, the International Women's Forum, and the Board of Directors of the 55 East End Corporation. In 1998, Dr. Firestone was Executive Director of The Women's Economic Summit whose work resulted in a master plan for accelerating the growth of women's business and was presented to Congress and the public in March, 1999.