**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:**

**WITI (Corporate)**

**Paula Gould, PEG PR**

**323.570.0734 | 310.428.6607**

**paula@corp.witi.com**

**WITI Atlanta Recognizes Ann Franks As Female IT Leader of the Year Award Winner**

**Atlanta, GA—December 9, 2011—WITI (Women in Technology International),** the world's leading trade association for professional, tech-savvy women committed to using technology, resources and connections to advance women worldwide, named Ann Franks, managing principal of AGSI, as recipient of WITI Atlanta’s Inaugural Female IT Leader of the Year Award. The award honors executive IT leaders for making outstanding contributions to the technology industry, their community, and for inspiring others.

“The WITI Atlanta Female IT Leader of the Year Award recognizes outstanding women who have made significant achievements and contributions to the technology industry, for their leadership, and also for their attitude of service.” said Cynthia Coker and Theresa Spralling, WITI Atlanta Co-Directors. “Ann has made significant contributions to the IT industry through her many achievements. She exemplifies the true meaning of a great leader through her commitment to give back and to inspire others who follow in her path.”

 Ann Franks is a business oriented senior technology executive with 25+ years of experience, which includes domestic and international IT operations, serving an expatriate assignment in Europe. Ann advanced through the ranks of Lanier Worldwide culminating with her appointment to Vice President Information Technology, CIO, followed by the appointment of Chief Information Security officer (CISO), North and South America for Ricoh Americas. Her responsibilities have included the integration efforts of 13 European countries; responsibility for IT strategy, program/project management, infrastructure/application portfolios, security and business process improvement for U.S. operations; and the establishment of an Americas program management office managing information security throughout the region. Ann joined AGSI in 2010, delivering executive services, including CIO advisory services, to F1000 companies. Ann was honored with the appointment of Georgia CIO of the Year in 2005. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Georgia and Theatrical Outfits. Ann actively supports and participates in several community organizations, one of which is mentoring women in advancing their career to the executive ranks. Ann exemplifies the characteristics of the technology woman this award represents.

The WITI Atlanta Female IT Leader of the Year Award was presented at WITI Atlanta’s Annual Holiday Event and Special Awards Presentation, held on December 5th, 2011, at the Ravania Club. The premier event sponsors included ADP and Intel.

For more information about the WITI Atlanta Chapter, please visit, [WITI.com/Atlanta](http://WITI.com/Atlanta) or contact: witi-atlanta@corp.witi.com. .1818.788.9484.

**About WITI:**

WITI is the world's leading trade association for professional, tech-savvy women committed to using technology, resources and connections to advance women worldwide. With a global network of smart, talented women and a market reach exceeding 2 million, WITI has established powerful strategic alliances and programs to provide resources, and opportunities within a supportive environment of women committed to helping each other. WITI's mission is to empower women worldwide to achieve unimagined possibilities and transformations through technology, leadership and economic prosperity. For more information please visit <http://witi.com>