

Summary Description of Santa Barbara Event

On Tuesday, May 31, 2016 NACD SoCal, in conjunction with the Channel City Club and California State University Channel Islands, hosted a lunch program in Santa Barbara entitled “The Global Economy and Corporate Governance Implications”. There were over 100 attendees at the event. The program included a twenty minute presentation on the current state of the global economic markets by Dr. Sung Won Sohn, followed by a corporate governance panel of seasoned corporate directors discussing board deliberations during times of economic uncertainty.

The presentation focused on the impacts of China’s stagnant economy, the Federal Reserve increasing interest rates, the volatility of oil prices and increasing government regulations. In addition, it addressed the potential impact of Britain leaving the European Union.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Karen Bogart. On the panel were Dr. Larry Taylor, Ms. Lorraine Segil and Dr. Sohn. The panelists responded to questions such as “What questions should board directors ask management given the global economic uncertainties? What are some best practices for boards employ to ensure strategic focus in uncertain times? What are some key risk indicators that boards should consider? How do you track and address non-financial disruptions related to regulations, cyber security, sustainability and operations concerns?”

Among the panelist responses were to ask management to demonstrate the firm has adequate recruitment, development and retention of human capital; adequate access to financing; alternate strategies for different scenarios; a flexible enterprise risk management system; and active succession planning and board evaluation. The event received a 4.6 average rating on our 5.0 scale from attendees. It was another interesting and successful program. Also, in attendance was Mr. Brandan Nass of NACD National and Mr. Ken Cleveland, the incoming NACD SoCal Chapter Programs Committee Chair, who gave the closing remarks.