

Press Release

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Dominican University's Brennan School of Business Presents Polished Nickel Capital CEO Carol Lavin Bernick in C-Suite Lecture

River Forest, IL – Dominican University's Brennan School of Business presents Carol Lavin Bernick, CEO of Polished Nickel Capital Management, a private investment firm, and former executive chair of Alberto Culver Company, in the fall C-Suite Speaker Series Lecture on Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. Bernick will share stories from her career and life in the university's Performing Arts Center, 7900 W. Division Street. This event, which is co-sponsored by the Oak Park River Forest Women Leaders in Philanthropy, is free but registrations are required.

Carol Lavin Bernick took over Albert Culver from her father, Leonard Lavin, who founded the global manufacturer of consumer products in 1955. She spent more than three decades in key executive roles with the company, leading its growth to over \$3 billion in sales before overseeing its sale to Unilever in 2011. During her tenure with the company, she was responsible for creating two of its most iconic brands, Mrs. Dash seasoning and Static Guard.

Through her Lavin Family Foundation, Bernick launched the nonprofit Enchanted Backpack in 2016. With an investment of \$1 million, the program provides school supplies, books, athletic equipment, art supplies, toiletries and winter coats to under-resourced Chicago area elementary schools. Since its inception, the program has delivered each year the equivalent of almost \$50,000 worth of school supplies, which she gets at greatly reduced costs through close-out sales and coupons, to 50 schools with average enrollments of 500 students.

Bernick self-published earlier this year *Gather As You Go*, a collection of stories and lessons she has learned throughout an extraordinary life as a corporate leader, mother and philanthropist. Proceeds from sales of the book benefit Enchanted Backpack.

Bernick serves on many boards, including Northwestern Memorial Healthcare, where she was the first woman to serve as board chair, Northwestern University, the Chicago Community Trust and Tulane University. She founded Friends of Prentice, a volunteer group that has raised millions of dollars for Northwestern Medicine Prentice Women's Hospital's infant and women's health programs.

To reserve a space for this program, visit <https://www.dom.edu/c-suite-speaker-series-carol-lavin-bernick-rsvp> or contact Kate Dierkes at kdierkes@dom.edu.

About Dominican University

Founded in 1901, Dominican University is a comprehensive, coeducational Catholic institution offering bachelor's degrees through the Rosary College of Arts and Sciences and master's degrees through the College of Health Sciences, the Brennan School of Business and the College of Applied Social Sciences. The university also offers a doctoral degree in library and information science. In the 2019 issue of America's Best Colleges, U.S. News & World Report ranked Dominican University #11 of all Midwest regional master's level universities. The magazine also ranked Dominican as the best value in the State of Illinois.