Access to Experts

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Richard E. Cavanagh is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Conference Board, Inc., the global research and business membership group. The Conference Board, which connects over 2,000 enterprises in 60 nations, is the most widely-cited private source of business intelligence. Publishers of the Consumer Confidence Index, the Leading Economic Indicators and other reports on economic trends and best management practices, some 20,000 executives participate annually in council, conference and meeting programs.

Mr. Cavanagh created and convened The Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Trust and Private Enterprise in 2002, a 12-member group of leaders from the worlds of business, finance, public service and academia. The Commission — chaired by Peter G. Peterson and John W. Snow — generated corporate governance reforms that have become the new "best practices" of American public companies. The Conference Board also established the first White House award for corporate citizenship — The Ron Brown Award — in 1998 under his leadership.

During Cavanagh's tenure, The Conference Board has globalized its membership, research and outreach. About half of its Trustees lead enterprises headquartered outside the U.S., and recently have been chaired by two non-Americans, Lord Marshall of British Airways and Niall FitzGerald of Unilever. Our Leading Economic Indicators are now published for nine nations, covering two-thirds of the world's GDP and have economic research centers in China and Europe.

Mr. Cavanagh joined The Conference Board in November 1995 after serving as Executive Dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government for eight years. Earlier he spent 15 years with McKinsey & Company, Inc., the international management consulting firm. He also had senior posts in the Carter Administration's White House Office of Management & Budget.


Cavanagh has served as a director of several Fortune 500 companies, as a Trustee of Wesleyan University and currently chairs the Board of Trustees of the Educational Testing Service.

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