

# CRAIN'S LIST CHICAGO'S LARGEST WOMEN-OWNED COMPANIES

Ranked by 2011 revenue

Company	Top executive	2011 revenue (millions)	% change from 2010	2011 local employees; total	Year founded	Years of majority woman ownership	% of woman ownership	Type of business
<b>1</b> SHURE INC. <sup>1</sup> 5800 W. Touhy Ave., Niles 60714 847-600-2000; Shure.com	Rose L. Shure Chairman	\$465.0	3.8%	850 2,100	1925	17	100%	Maker of microphones and audio electronics
<b>2</b> FLYING FOOD GROUP LLC 212 N. Sangamon St., Suite 1A, Chicago 60607 312-243-2122; FlyingFood.com	Sue Ling Glin CEO	\$369.0	10.8%	563 3,527	1983	29	100%	Airline catering, fresh meals for retailers
<b>3</b> HARPO INC. 110 N. Carpenter St., Chicago 60607 312-633-1000; Oprah.com	Oprah G. Winfrey Chairman	\$309.0	6.9%	340 360	1986	26	100%	Television and film production, publishing and online media
<b>4</b> UNITED SCRAP METAL INC. 1545 S. Cicero Ave., Cicero 60804 708-780-6800; UnitedScrap.com	Marsha Serlin CEO	\$268.0	8.9%	180 180	1978	34	85%	Scrap-metal buyer and recycler
<b>5</b> DSC LOGISTICS INC. 1750 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines 60018 847-390-6800; DSCLogistics.com	Ann M. Drake CEO	\$265.0	1.9%	350 2,250	1960	22	100%	Third-party logistics and supply-chain management
<b>6</b> MARKETING INNOVATORS INTERNATIONAL INC. <sup>2</sup> 9701 W. Higgins Road, 4th floor, Rosemont 60018 847-696-1111; MarketingInnovators.com	Lois M. LeMenager Chairman, CEO	\$207.2	51.7%	45 48	1978	31	100%	Incentives, recognition, loyalty, group travel programs
<b>7</b> BRIGHTSTAR GROUP HOLDINGS INC. 1125 Tri-State Pkwy., Suite 700, Gurnee 60031 866-777-7110; BrightStarCare.com	Shelly Sun CEO	\$156.8	58.2%	85 109	2002	10	100%	Health care staffing agency
<b>8</b> JOHNSON PUBLISHING CO. 820 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60605 312-322-9241; JohnsonPublishing.com	Linda Johnson Rice Chairman	\$120.0	NC	124 161	1942	5	51%	Publishing, television production, entertainment, consumer products
<b>9</b> COMPACT INDUSTRIES INC. 3945 Ohio Ave., St. Charles 60174 630-513-9600; CompactInd.com	Dale Veronica Brown Vice chairman, CEO	\$103.0	8.4%	104 104	1963	13	85%	Manufacturer of dry food products
<b>10</b> NATIONAL VAN LINES INC. <sup>3</sup> 2800 W. Roosevelt Road, Broadview 60155 708-450-2900; NationalVanLines.com	Maureen Beal Chairman, president, CEO	\$102.0	26.4%	130 132	1929	19	64%	Moving company
<b>11</b> MNJ TECHNOLOGIES DIRECT INC. 1025 E. Busch Pkwy., Buffalo Grove 60089 847-634-0700; MNJTech.com	Susan Kozak President	\$91.2	5.5%	74 79	2002	10	100%	Reseller of computer hardware and software
<b>12</b> HOLLY HUNT ENTERPRISES INC. 801 W. Adams St., Suite 700, Chicago 60607 312-329-5999; HollyHunt.com	Holly A. Hunt CEO	\$90.0	2.3%	165 230	1983	29	100%	Designer and manufacturer of interior furnishings
<b>13</b> KENWOOD LIQUORS GROUP 12037 W. 159th St., Homer Glen 60491 708-590-8210; KenwoodLiquors.biz	JoAnn Dixon President, CEO	\$86.0	7.5%*	100 100	1949	5	85%	Chain of liquor stores
<b>14</b> NEW WORLD VAN LINES INC. 5875 N. Rogers Ave., Chicago 60646 800-422-9300; NWVL.com	Shirley Marx Chairman	\$84.1	9.3%	143 607	1919	13	52%	Moving company
<b>15</b> MARILYN MIGLIN L.P. 1230 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago 60607 312-266-4600; MarilynMiglin.com	Marilyn J. Miglin President, CEO	\$82.6	30.0%	30 70	1963	49	100%	Manufacturer and seller of fragrances, cosmetics and skin-care products
<b>16</b> GLOBAL CAPITAL LTD. 200 W. Superior St., Suite 303, Chicago 60654 312-846-6918; GlobalCapitalLtd.com	Terri E. McNally President	\$76.0	171.4%	4 4	1999	13	100%	General equipment leasing and financing, LED lighting
<b>17</b> SPECTRA MERCHANDISING INTERNATIONAL INC. 4230 Normandy Ave., Chicago 60634 773-202-8408; Spectralntl.com	Patricia Schoenberg President	\$56.4	3.3%	60 90	1981	31	100%	Manufacturer of branded consumer electronics
<b>18</b> CONTINENTAL WEB PRESS INC. 1430 Industrial Drive, Itasca 60143 630-773-1903; ContinentalWeb.com	Diane K. Field President, CEO	\$55.2	NC	180 360	1973	4	51%	Commercial printer
<b>19</b> OEC BUSINESS INTERIORS INC. <sup>4</sup> 900 N. Church Road, Elmhurst 60126 630-589-5500; OECBusinessInteriors.com	Frances Riha Chairman, CEO	\$54.7	14.4%	106 110	1955	22	51%	Contract furniture dealership
<b>20</b> CORPORATE CONCEPTS INC. 500 Waters Edge, Suite 200, Lombard 60148 630-691-8800; CorpConc.com	Victoria Hansel President, CEO	\$48.0	54.8%	48 48	1983	29	78%	Contract furniture dealership
<b>21</b> CORPTRAV MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. 450 E. 22nd St., Lombard 60148 630-691-9100; CorpTrav.com	Bonnie Lorelce CEO	\$34.0	17.2%	107 130	1976	36	100%	Corporate travel management services
<b>22</b> SIGNATURE HOMESTYLES 3945 Swenson Ave., St. Charles 60174 630-762-1700; SignatureHomestyles.com	Madolyn Johnson CEO	\$32.8	0.9%	50 50	1971	41	100%	Direct seller of home accessories and organizing products
<b>23</b> LEVY SECURITY CORP. 8750 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 1000, Chicago 60631 773-867-9204; LevySecurity.com	Deborah G. Levy Chairman, CEO	\$32.7	2.6%	780 780	1979	17	100%	Security services
<b>24</b> BENEFIT EXPRESS 220 W. Campus Drive, Suite 203, Arlington Heights 60004 847-637-1551; BenefitExpress.info	Maria D. Bradley President	\$32.1	10.0%	170 181	2001	11	100%	Employee benefits administration outsourcing
<b>25</b> SYNECTICS INC. 135 S. LaSalle St., Suite 2050, Chicago 60603 312-629-1020; Synectics.com	Karen Welngart President	\$25.8	-1.6%	99 309	1984	27	100%	Information-technology and human resources consulting

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Includes companies based in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties that are at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a woman. Revenues are for the calendar year unless noted. Crain's estimates are in gray and are based on industry analysis and benchmarks, news reports and a wide range of other sources. Actual revenues may vary. Company estimates are marked with an asterisk. **NC**, No change. **1**, Fiscal year ends in May. **2**, Fiscal year ends in January. **3**, Fiscal year ends in April. **4**, Fiscal year ends in September.

Researched and edited by Gabrielle Lieberman and Allison Riggio

## ► A WIN-WIN SITUATION

Five reasons why an outstanding workplace for women is important for your entire company.

**MORE DIVERSE TEAMS PRODUCE BETTER RESULTS.** In a recent study of more than 100 teams at 21 companies, working groups with equal numbers of men and women were more likely to experiment, be creative, share knowledge and fulfill tasks than teams with other compositions, says Catherine Ashcraft, a senior research scientist at the National Center for Women and Information Technology, a Boulder, Colo.-based research and advocacy group. "If your company serves a very diverse client base, but you have only one group of people inventing all the technology, that doesn't serve the needs of a diverse group of people or clients," Ms. Ashcraft says.

**IF YOU DON'T WORK TO KEEP WOMEN, YOU'LL LOSE THEM TO OTHER SECTORS.** One NCHWIT study found 56 percent of women in technology leave their careers at a mid-level point, more than double the quit rate for men. "Half of those who leave go to technology jobs, but not in the private sector—into government and nonprofits," Ms. Ashcraft says. "A lot of this has to do with not having access to creative roles. They're pushed more into execution and product management roles... and they're dissatisfied with their career path."

**POLICIES DESIGNED FOR WOMEN ARE BECOMING ATTRACTIVE TO ALL STAFFERS.** "The differences between what men and women are looking for is becoming narrower," says Phil Jensen, a principal at Buck Consulting, a New York human resources consultancy that has conducted workplace surveys for Crain's. "The work-family balance issue is almost as important for men now as it is for women."

**ATTACKING HISTORICAL BIASES AGAINST WOMEN CAN ONLY BENEFIT YOUR COMPANY CULTURE.** Pigeonholing women in certain roles—steering them toward top human resources jobs but away from executive jobs in manufacturing and engineering—only hurts the overall business culture. "There is still an issue in this country with females being intentionally or unintentionally directed toward non-line roles, as opposed to line management roles," says David Van De Voort, a Buck Consulting principal specializing in compensation. "Organizations that are truly enlightened are the ones who don't have pink assignments and blue assignments, but unfortunately, that is a very tough bias to overcome."

**BOTH MALE AND FEMALE EMPLOYEES SEE WHAT'S GOOD FOR WOMEN AS GOOD FOR THE ENTIRE COMPANY.** "There are two things that everybody values—males and females, whatever their age—and the first one is flexibility in terms of how we do our work, because everybody is so pressed for time," Mr. Van De Voort says. "And the other is variety. You need to attract people by... offering them variety in their work and opportunities to learn new things and advance."

Meg McSherry Breslin