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For Immediate Release

Des Moines, Iowa

Cheryl O'Donoghue, Author and Thought Leader, Co-hosted Women in IT Virtual Summit—Silicon Valley 2020

O'Donoghue helped guide over 400 summit attendees as they learned, collaborated and worked on solutions together for some of the most glaring tech and diversity challenges facing our world today

October 8, 2020. Three conference producers—Information Age, DiversityQ and Bonhill Group—celebrated the success of its Women in IT Virtual Summit, Silicon Valley 2020 event held on October 7 and co-hosted by two CEOs, Cheryl O'Donoghue (EiLeadershipResources.com and Aspire2STEAM.org) and Anita Gardyne (oneva.com). The event featured top IT industry experts and focused on gender diversity, inclusion and equity.

“Gender diversity, inclusion and equity are at the heart of each of the three books I’ve written,” said Cheryl O'Donoghue, CEO and founder of BnEiLeader.com and the nonprofit MissionSistersWhoWork.org. “It was a profound honor for me to help attendees navigate these important issues throughout the #WITSummit and connect them to an extraordinary group of speakers.”

Cheryl started her career working for a tech firm in the heart of Silicon Valley and has spent the lion's share of her career helping organizations adopt sweeping changes using technology-based solutions. “My start in tech put me in a position where I was able to earn more than other women working in other industries at the time...though it was still woefully lower than my male counterparts. But I never took that opportunity for granted,” said O'Donoghue. “As women in tech, I truly believe we are at the center of making the world around us more equitable, diverse and inclusive. It's up to us to help close the gaps.”

The summit featured two content streams. O'Donoghue co-hosted Stream One “What's Next for Tech?” in the morning and “Professional Developing 101” in the afternoon. The impressive group of Stream One speakers included:

- Sally Eaves, Senior Policy Advisor working at Global Foundation for Cyber Studies
- Jo Peterson, VP, Cloud & Security, Clarify360
- Rekha Venkatakrishnan, Senior Manager, Group Product Management, Walmart Labs
- Nneka Emegwa, Security Consulting Senior Manager, Accenture
- Alley Lyles, Design Producer, USAA
- Matthew Douglas, Chief Enterprise Architect, Sentara Healthcare

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Newsroom

- Kate O'Laughlin, Director, Tech & Investment, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
- Kiki Mwiti, Founder & CEO, DYVVYD
- Wendy Knight Agard, Leadership Coach & TEDx Speaker, Shopify
- Parneet Pal, Chief Science Officer, Wisdom Labs, Inc.
- Bernadette Rotolo, Senior Vice President, Head of Global Systems, Warner Music Group
- Veronica Millan, Global Chief Information Officer, MullenLowe Group
- Mark Nabong, Recruiter, Power Personnel
- Jani Lehtimake, Vice President of Sales, Brella

Visit [Women in IT Silicon Valley Summit](#) for information on next year's event and to check out additional content, including videos and blog posts.

About Emotional Intelligence (Ei) Leadership Resources (EiLeadershipResources.com). We exist to help transform organizations and individuals through emotional intelligence leadership training, books, communications, and coaching. We were founded by longtime organizational development executive, author, and emotional intelligence leadership champion, Cheryl O'Donoghue, M.S. Cheryl has written three books featuring emotional intelligence leadership—[How to Be an Emotionally Intelligent Leader](#) (*While Crushing Your Goals*); [How to Be a Woman in Technology](#) (*While Focusing on What Matters Most*); and [How to Be a Woman in Business](#) (*While Being True to Yourself*). O'Donoghue is committed to the advancement of women in the workplace through professional development and education. In 2018 she co-founded the 501(c)(3) humanitarian organization **Mission Sisters Who Work** ([recently renamed Aspire2STEAM.org](#)). Each year, at least ten percent of profits from Ei Leadership Resources go to fund Mission Sisters' scholarship program, in addition to all royalties earned from O'Donoghue's books.

Visit [EiLeadershipResources.com](#) for more information on Cheryl O'Donoghue, her books, and other resources she has available to develop emotional intelligence leadership in companies and individuals.