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**Rising  
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For Stronger Support and Success

**The Women's Alliance  
2011 Conference**

**The Women's Alliance 2011 National Conference  
Rising Together—Harnessing the Power of Connectivity  
for Stronger Support and Success**

November 4–5

Courtyard by Marriott Oklahoma City Downtown  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Sheri Cole**

**Sheri Cole** is the executive director of [The Career Wardrobe](#), the nation's largest community-based nonprofit organization that helps women transition to work by providing free professional clothing and career skills training. Each year The Career Wardrobe provides over 7,500 women throughout the Philadelphia region with the clothing, skills, and confidence necessary to achieve self-sufficiency, and 50 to 60 percent of its clients successfully find employment.

Beginning as a small, grassroots organization run mostly by volunteers, The Career Wardrobe has seen a 90 percent increase in demand for its professional clothing and image consultation program. It has grown from being an agency with minimal staff and a budget under \$150,000 to one that employs eight women and has a budget of over \$800,000. Among The Career Wardrobe's expanded programming are the Professional Women's Network, a networking group for former participants to keep them motivated and moving forward in their careers, and a Client Help Desk to assist with resume review and interviewing skills. In 1999, Ms. Cole also provided the leadership necessary to open The Wardrobe Boutique, an upscale recycled clothing store to benefit The Career Wardrobe.

Ms. Cole holds a certificate in nonprofit leadership from the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work and Social Research's Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute as well as a Master of Arts in Women's Studies from the University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor of Philosophy from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Ms. Cole has served as board president of The Women's Alliance, and in 2009 she was selected to join Leadership Philadelphia, an organization whose mission is to mobilize and connect the talent of the private sector to serve the community. In 2003, Ms. Cole was honored by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* as one Philadelphia's 40 Under Forty for her leadership and community involvement.

Originally from Ohio, Ms. Cole has been in Philadelphia since 1994 and lives in Center City.