**FUNDRAISING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PAT SIMMONS**

Hello everyone!! Once again, it’s a privilege and a thrill to stand before all of you, as we, once again, gather tonight to demonstrate the power of positive reinforcement and the strength that can be discovered and developed when we share a common goal. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “A woman is like a teabag... you never know how strong she is until she’s placed in hot water.” (**Wait for the laugh**). Here at Dress For Success Tulsa, we do what we can to assure that our clients are poised and prepared to accept and flourish in their future professional adventures.

... And speaking of bags... we have a **HOT** auction planned!! I must say, you all look resplendent in your Derby finery!! Tonight we’re here for a great cause and as we borrow our theme from one of the premier events in the world of sports, some of us will indeed “Get Lucky in Kentucky... in a manner of speaking!!” Tonight we've collectively scored a trifecta of great opportunities... terrific food and better company.... the chance to support this fine organization... and the great likelihood that many of you will walk away with the **WINNING PURSE!**! With over one hundred and fifty items in our silent auction and twenty **FABULOUS** designer handbags up for bid, I am **VERY SURE** that **EVERYONE** will be a winner!! ... Needless to say, you already are!!

In the colorful and communal spirit of Kentucky Derby Style, I would like to acknowledge all of you and give particular thanks to our Corporate Table Sponsors, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Your enthusiasm and graciousness continue to reinforce our mission and allow us to support, encourage and prepare more women for the workplace each year. To our Executive Director, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for guiding us...... for creating a context in which we all grow, and for leading us to consistently greater and more positive impact within the communities we serve. As a member of the advisory board, I see first hand the dedication demonstrated by my co-members. To each of you, I want you to know that it is an honor to serve with all of you and to recognize the difference made in the lives of not only our regional clients, but Dress For Success clients throughout the country and the world. This organization provides a perpetual classroom and sounding board for all of us. As we continue to work together, in support of the “bigger picture,” I know we all learn and get stronger through this experience. I would especially like to thank my two other co-chairs, Patti Freeman and Terri Wasinger.. We have spent many hours planning this event and I appreciate and adore these two ladies. I’ve always said that we are a great team and I am proud that we can share this journey.... I should say this **RACE**... together. This is the third annual purse event. The first one brought in a little over $40,000. Last year, we reached $60,000. We would love to see $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Let’s do this!!

Being here at The Patriot Golf Club is another wonderful treat for us and we’re particularly curious to see how that corporate table competition turns out!! Even with all of the fun and excitement, I know we will still remember the reason why we’re here at this beautiful clubhouse... tonight is about donating to a wonderful organization. It's about how we can acknowledge all that we have been blessed with while honoring the importance of sharing our blessings. Events like this are a great way to socialize and network, but we must not lose sight of our purpose. We must never forget how even one individual can make a difference. I want to thank the patrons for all of your thoughtfulness and generosity. Dress for Success relies completely on donations from generous participants like each one of you... tonight is about showing how strong you are... even in the “**hot water**” of competition...don’t be **SHY**... **BID**!!! ... **WIN**!! **PLACE**!!! And **SHOW** everyone your **NEW PURSES**!! Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening!!