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Impact 100 brings national convention to Cincinnati

Business Courier of Cincinnati

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A group that empowers women to get involved in collaborative philanthropy will hold a national convention in Cincinnati this weekend.

Impact 100, started by Wendy Steele in Cincinnati in 2001, has grown to six chapters in cities such as Austin, Indianapolis, Owensboro, Ky., Pensacola, Oklahoma and San Antonio.

And as many as six new chapters are preparing to kick-off their efforts, said Sue Baggott, past president of the Cincinnati Impact 100 chapter.

Impact 100 works like this: Each chapter has a minimum of 100 members, who each donate \$1,000 a year. One hundred percent of the funds donated by members is returned to the community in the form of grants. By year-end, all \$100,000 (or more, depending on the exact number of donors) is given to worthy nonprofit organizations.

In Cincinnati, Impact 100, www.impact100.org, has awarded more than \$1.2 million to groups such as the McMicken Dental Center, Tender Mercies, Elementz and Cincinnati Works since its founding.

In 2007, all Impact 100 chapters awarded more than \$5 million in cumulative giving.

The April 18 and 19 convention will take place at several downtown Cincinnati locations, and will bring chapter leaders together to share ideas about membership, finances, starting up new Impact 100 chapters, assessing nonprofit needs and strengthening the Impact 100 brand.

Gene Tempel, executive director of the Indiana University Center for Philanthropy will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Steele and Elaine Sues, the current president of the Cincinnati chapter.

Elementz, one of Cincinnati's 2007 grant recipients, will perform.