

Patricia Foley Hinnen
Founding CEO of Capital Sisters International



Patricia is the Founding CEO of Capital Sisters International, a non-profit organization that raises business capital for impoverished women in developing countries and promotes financial inclusion around the world. Patricia has worked in economic development and international affairs for the past three decades with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. State Department, and the microfinance industry. Since 1998, she has helped establish seven domestic and international microfinance organizations under the Capital Sisters umbrella, raised loan capital for tens of thousands of women's micro businesses in 25 countries, and served as a Microfinance Advisor to the State Department where she represented the U.S. in the 21-nation Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum for a decade as head of the APEC Women Leaders Network.

Patricia developed the first zero interest bond available to the general public that finances women's micro loans. In recognition of this innovation and her longstanding work to promote economic empowerment for women, Patricia recently received a number of acknowledgements including the Global Purpose Prize for Financial Inclusion by MetLife Foundation and Encore/AARP, the 2016 Pathfinder Award for Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs by World Denver, and the 2016 Outstanding Global Service Award from the Alliance of Professional Women. She was also named one of 15 Inspiring Female CEOs that Impacted the World in 2015 by Cause Artists.

Within the U.S., Patricia was the Co-founder of Colorado Microcredit, the Micro Business Development Center, and the Colorado Microfinance Alliance. Patricia developed a passion for economic development and international affairs during two tours in the U.S. Peace Corps in West and Southern Africa, an overseas posting in Europe, and travel to more than 60 countries. Patricia has a BA in Political Science and Economics from the University of Colorado and a Master of Public Policy and Program Evaluation from Denver University.