## Women and Entrepreneurship

A panel discussion with

H.E. Alexa L. Wesner, U.S. Ambassador to Austria Prof. Dianne H.B. Welsh, Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair for Entrepreneurship in Central Europe at Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien Selma Prodanovic, Entrepreneur, Business Angelina, Philanthropist

Welcome: Dr. Lonnie Johnson, Executive Director, Austrian Fulbright Commission



U.S. Embassy Vienna

## **AMERIKA HAUS**

Monday, June 22, 2015 6:00 pm

R.S.V.P.: <u>programs@usembassy.at</u> Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna





**Alexa Wesner**, who took office as Ambassador of the United States of America to Austria in fall 2013, graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. degree in Biology before moving to Austin, Texas to join Trilogy Software in the early days of Austin's technology boom. In 1997, she founded HireTECH, a recruiting and consulting company focused on high tech start-ups, also serving as President and CEO. In 2000, she founded her second company, Recruiting Labs, a web-based recruiting venture. After a successful career as a high-tech chief executive and entrepreneur, Ms. Wesner turned her attention to politics and community development as both a fundraiser and a hands-on entrepreneur driving progressive causes on national, regional and local levels.

**Prof. Dianne H.B. Welsh**, who holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska, is the Hayes Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and Founding Director of the Entrepreneurship Program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has previously founded two entrepreneurship programs and centers and has held three endowed professorships. Dianne is a recognized scholar in family business, international entrepreneurship, women-owned businesses and franchising and has seven books and over 150 publications. She is the Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair for Entrepreneurship in Central Europe at WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) in the spring of 2015.





**Selma Prodanovic** is one of the most influential business developers and connectors in Europe and a celebrated international keynote speaker. A passionate entrepreneur and philanthropist, she is also known as Startup-Grande-Dame and Business Angelina. With her business developer Brainswork she supported over 300 startups, corporations, and investors. She is co-founder and board member of the Austrian Angel Investors Association and board member of EBAN (European Business Angel Network). For her innovative approach to business, and commitment to entrepreneurship and social change, Selma received numerous awards, most recently the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman Award.

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