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NVCA CONGRATULATES 2010 ASTIA AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR ACTIVE INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Alloy Ventures, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, and NEA to be Honored for Commitment to Women-Led Companies

December 2, 2010, Arlington, VA - The Sixth Annual Astia Awards will this year recognize three National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) member firms for actively investing in women entrepreneurs. Alloy Ventures, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, and NEA will be recognized on December 2, 2010, at an awards ceremony held at the Microsoft Campus in Mountain View, CA. The Astia Awards honor exceptional women innovators along with the investors and mentors who support their success.

“The venture capitalist’s job is to empower the best and brightest entrepreneurs so that the most exciting innovations can be brought to market,” said Kate D. Mitchell, chair of the National Venture Capital Association and managing director at Scale Venture Partners. “It takes an extraordinary amount of focus, skill, and creativity to grow today’s start-ups into tomorrow’s household names. We applaud those NVCA firms who are funding the women entrepreneurs who have risen to the challenge and are making our world a better place.”

Alloy Ventures will receive the Diversified Portfolio Award for being the venture capital firm with the greatest percentage of investments in women CEOs or founders. Alloy focuses on seed and early stage computer hardware, software, internet, and life science companies.

Draper Fisher Jurvetson (DFJ) is being honored with the Breaking the Barriers Award. The recognition goes to the venture capital firm with the greatest number of investments in women-founded companies. DFJ invests in emerging technologies including the Internet, life sciences, clean energy and nanotechnology.

NEA will receive the Shattered Glass Award for being the U.S. firm with the greatest number of investments in female CEOs. NEA’s investments focus on companies in information technology, healthcare, and energy technology.

“It is extremely gratifying to see the venture capital community investing in diverse management teams,” said Sharon Vosmek, CEO of Astia, the premier venture accelerator for women-led high growth companies. “Each year we recognize those firms whose portfolios stand out for the number and percentage of women in executive and founder roles. This year, we once again honor Alloy Ventures, Draper Fisher Jurvetson and New Enterprise Associates – each of whom has won Astia Awards in the past - for their ongoing leadership in investing and promoting exciting new companies that are led by women.”

Astia is a San Francisco-based non-profit that provides programs that are designed to accelerate funding and growth of early-stage women-led businesses in life sciences, high technology and clean technology. Since 2003, Astia has worked with over 100 women-led companies which have raised over \$500 million.

For more information about the awards ceremony, please visit www.astia.org.

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The National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) represents more than 425 venture capital firms in the United States. NVCA's mission is to foster greater understanding of the importance of venture capital to the U.S. economy and support entrepreneurial activity and innovation. According to a 2009 Global Insight study, venture-backed companies accounted for 12.1 million jobs and \$2.9 trillion in revenue in the United States in 2008. The NVCA represents the public policy interests of the venture capital community, strives to maintain high professional standards, provides reliable industry data, sponsors professional development, and facilitates interaction among its members. For more information about the NVCA, please visit www.nvca.org.

About Astia, Where Women Innovators Succeed

Astia is a global not-for-profit organization built on a community with a distinct focus and mission – to propel women’s full participation as entrepreneurs and leaders in high-growth businesses, fueling innovation and driving economic growth. Guided by a proven philosophy that gender diversity is an essential element of innovation, Astia works with start-ups around the world as they access capital, grow their businesses, and hone the leadership skills of their founding teams.

The Astia model of engaging a community of experts to the benefit of the select start-ups it serves has resulted in an exceptional success rate: since 2003, over 60 percent of companies that have participated in the Astia Investor Forums have secured funding or achieved an exit within one year of presenting, totalling more than \$750 million dollars raised and 20 exits, including two IPOs. Headquartered in San Francisco, Astia delivers programs for entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, New York, London and India. Astia has also

had significant press coverage in major media channels including [The New York Times](#), [Businessweek](#), [Forbes](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) and [The Financial Times](#). For more information, visit www.astia.org