

NCRW Conference 2009-Igniting Change: Activating Alliances for Social Justice

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For Immediate Release

New York, June 2, 2009 – The National Council for Research on Women will hold its **annual conference June 10-12** at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. A wide cross-section of leaders from **research, policy, academic, advocacy, philanthropic** and **business circles** will gather to explore the latest strategies for advancing women and girls in the economy, government and civil society. Through dynamic dialogue and interactive workshops, the conference will not only tackle current challenges, but will build new alliances and partnerships for positive change across sectors and differences of gender, class, race, ethnicity, generation, ability and sexual orientation.

“This year, we’ll be confronting critical issues, for example, analyzing how the stimulus package benefits, or not, women and girls; we’ll be weighing health care and other major policy proposals as well as delving into global and human rights issues. It will be a tremendous opportunity for brainstorming, networking and strategizing about how to build a social contract that brings about economic stability, security for women, families and communities as well as long-term sustainability,” said **Linda Basch**, President of the National Council for Research on Women.

The Conference will offer a pre-event **Women in Business Series** sponsored by *Accenture: Investing in Success: Advancing Women’s Leadership in Business*. Facilitators will include **Lauren Ashwell**, **Marilyn Puder-York**, and **Sharon Meers** with a host of corporate leaders participating as resources and mentors: **Terri Austin**, AIU Holdings, Inc.; **Subha Barry**, Bank of America and Merrill Lynch; **LaMae Allen deJongh**, Accenture; **Ana Duarte McCarthy**, Citi; **Aynesh Johnson**, Goldman Sachs; **Kerrie Peraino**, American Express; and **Melinda Wolfe**, Bloomberg L.P. The series will examine the impact of the financial crisis on women; the critical role of women in the economic recovery and strategies for balancing work and family life, among other issues.

Hosted by the CUNY Center for the Study of Women and Society, the conference will bring together executives, economists and experts from numerous organizations, institutions, and disciplines. The opening plenary will be moderated by NCRW President Linda Basch and include **Irasema Garza** of *Legal Momentum*, **Lisa Mensah** of *The Aspen Institute*, **Rinku Sen**, from the *Applied Research Center*, **Alan Jenkins**, of *The Opportunity Agenda*, and **Heather Boushey**, from the *Center for American Progress*. Other notable speakers featured at the conference will include author **Leslie Bennetts** from *Vanity Fair*, **Charlotte Bunch** from the *Center for Women’s Global Leadership* at Rutgers University, **Ana Oliveira** from the New York Women’s Foundation; **Eleanor Smeal** from the Feminist Majority Foundation and **Marie Wilson** from The White

House Project.

Themes that will be examined during the 3-day series of panels and roundtables include: youth and leadership pipelines; war, peace and security; diversity and inclusion; popular culture and gender; science and technology; the LGBT rights movement; social entrepreneurship; womenomics and international human rights.

There will also be a welcoming reception on the evening of June 10 with special guest speaker **Donna Orender**, President of the **National Women's Basketball Association**. During the reception, the recipients of the **2009-2010 NCRW Member Center Awards** will be announced in recognition of lifetime achievement and outstanding research and scholarship. In addition, two new awards will be given this year: one in diversity and inclusion and the other honoring an emerging member center.

During the final day of the conference, participants will be offered a series of hands-on workshops, some offered exclusively for NCRW member centers. It will begin with the roundtable: ***New Strategic Directions for Ford Foundation Giving*** in which representatives from the Ford Foundation provide details of their institution's new funding priorities. Other workshops will be offered in: **blogging and new media** with **Deborah Siegel**, (*Girl w/ Pen Consulting*), and **political leadership** with **Erin Vilardi**, (*The White House Project*). Finally, NCRW Member Centers will hold a working luncheon/annual meeting and will be given an opportunity to participate in a *Diversity and Inclusion Workshop with Campus Women Lead* led by **Patricia M. Lowrie**, of *Campus Women Lead* and *Michigan State University* and **Caryn McTighe Musil**, of the *Association of American Colleges & Universities'* Program on the Status and Education of Women.

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