

## NCRW Awards 2008: Members Recognized for Excellence

New York (June 7, 2008) - At its 2008 annual conference that concluded today, the National Council for Research on Women presented awards to women's organizations that had demonstrated excellence in research, advocacy and policy initiatives. The **2008 Member Center Award** was presented to the *Center for American Women and Politics* at Rutgers University. The **Research and Scholarship Award** went to the *Girl Scouts* and the **Policy and Advocacy Campaign Award**, to *The White House Project*.

"Our members are all doing outstanding work to improve the lives of women and girls. This year's award recipients demonstrate the significant impact our network has on strategic policies and programs," said **Linda Basch**, President of the National Council for Research on Women.

The NCRW annual conference encompassed more than 50 roundtables, workshops and special events focusing on the economic, social, and political challenges faced by women and girls and proposed solutions to address those challenges.

It was the first time that the Council had conferred a *Research and Scholarship Award*. The award recognized the Girl Scouts and their Research Institute for a three-pronged initiative: a review called *Exploring Girls' Leadership*, an original study entitled *Change It Up! What Girls Say about Redefining Leadership* and an evaluation guide entitled *Transforming Leadership*.

**Jaelyn Libowitz**, Chief of Staff of the Girl Scout Research Institute and **Kimberlee Salmond**, a Senior Researcher, accepted the award on behalf of the Girl Scouts' CEO **Kathy Cloninger**.

"You have broken new ground in understanding the perceptions girls have about leadership. You have also come up with an effective tool kit for encouraging girls to aim high and achieve their dreams," said Linda Basch.

It was also the first time that the Council had conferred a *Policy and Advocacy Campaign Award*. The 2008 prize was presented to **The White House Project** for its *Vote, Run, Lead Campaign* -- a cross-country series of workshops that aims to encourage women to enter politics at all levels - local, regional and national. In just three years, the campaign has trained some 5,000 women, more than 100 of which have run for office and half of them have won.

"It is so exciting to see a real pipeline of new leaders taking shape and it is only fitting to recognize *The White House Project* for its contribution to this development," said **Cynthia Secor**, Vice Chair of the Council's Board of Directors who presented the award.

The Award was accepted by **Erin Vilardi**, Program Director and **Tiffany Dufu** Director of Development on behalf of **Marie Wilson**, President of *The White House Project*.

The *2008 Member Center Award* was presented to the **Center for American Women and Politics** at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. **CAWP** was recognized for its cutting-edge research and outstanding campaigns. **CAWP**, one of the founding members of the Council, was recognized in particular, for its work over the previous year, including a *Presidential Watch* that provided information on the first viable woman candidate for U.S. President, its *Ready to Run Campaign*, and its website redesign project.

"We are recognizing CAWP for its outstanding leadership, innovative programming and

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strategic vision. This is a well-deserved award to a highly accomplished and productive center," said **Eleanor Horne**, Chair of the NCRW Board of Directors.

The award was accepted by **Ruth Mandel**, CAWP's Founding Director and current Director of the Eagleton Institute on behalf of CAWP Director **Debbie Walsh**.

Past recipients of the NCRW Member Center Award have included the *Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan*, the *Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon*, the *Feminist Press*, the *Institute for Women's Policy Research*, the *International Center for Research on Women* and the *Wellesley Centers for Women*.

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