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The Institute for Economic
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The Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women November Newsletter – First Edition

With only a few weeks left in 2010, it's no understatement that time has certainly flown by! Fall is here, and plans for the 2011 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS program are in full swing. With so much going on, you will hear from us twice this month, so this is the *first edition* of our newsletter.

As the year comes to an end, we start to think even more about 2011. I've spoken with our partners to make sure that everyone has the timeline for next year's PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS program, but in case you missed it, please click [here](#) for more information.

Schedules fill up so fast, and we want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to attend as many events as possible, including our International Women's Economic Summit and graduation. Spending one-on-one time with our students and seeing first-hand their incredible motivation, progress, and spirit is so important, because words and pictures can only capture so much. Interacting with these women is an experience you won't want to miss out on! Mark your calendar now for our International Women's Economic Summit July 25th – 26th, with graduation on the evening of July 26th.

Another experience you can't miss is mentorship. Apply now [online](#) to be a mentor for the next program. By mentoring, you can be an integral part of the incredible experience of paying forward your blessings to a woman entrepreneur from Afghanistan or Rwanda. Students will be selected for Leadership Development in April, so the matchmaking process will begin soon!

'Spiral of Influence' award

The Kansas City Council of Women Business Owners (KC-CWBO) 10th anniversary celebration event, **A Spiral of Influence**, was held on October 26th in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Council nominated yours truly for their Spiral of Influence award, and I am deeply humbled and so grateful for the trust and confidence they have bestowed on me. Kathy Bennett, an Institute board member, accepted the award on my



Kathy Bennett, Institute board member, at the Spiral of Influence event.

behalf. Thank you, Kathy! The Spiral of Influence award is especially near and dear to my heart as I travel the country encouraging women to become a part of the public policy process.

KC-CWBO's impact has been on the leading edge of women business owner issues not only regionally, but also on a national basis. I am eternally grateful for this honor and will always treasure the Spiral of Influence award and close friendship with KC-CWBO. Nancy Zurbuchen and Becky Wilson have made a profound impact on this Council, the city, and their state.



2010 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS graduates Leonia (left) with Parinaz, former classmates and now sisters for life.

Power talks between Afghan and Rwandan women

Leonia Nkuruh, a 2010 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS graduate from Rwanda is currently in India with her husband who is now the Rwandan Ambassador to India. She recently had a surprise visit from another 2010 PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS graduate, Parinaz Hissami from Afghanistan.

They enjoyed lunch together, as well as a discussion about business and Parinaz's current project in Afghanistan, the first Women's Farmer's Market. What a testament to the Institute's ability to bridge these two cultures. Just awesome!

US-Afghan Women's Council Meeting with Secretary Clinton

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Secretary Clinton, Mrs. Laura Bush, Ambassador Verveer, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke,

and members of the US-Afghan Women's Council in Washington, D.C. for a formal presentation of the Council's projects.

The meeting began with welcomes from Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, and Secretary Hillary Clinton. Honorary Advisor Mrs. Laura W. Bush joined the group via teleconference and offered her greetings and comments. The new Afghan Charge de Affairs, Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel, brought greetings from the Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Secretary Clinton delivered remarks outlining her goals for Afghanistan and her desire to continue to empower women. The Council's key members offered Secretary Clinton a summary of Council projects and activities. The group entered into a lively dialogue and exchange of ideas on future collaboration with Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

I was simply honored to be at the table to discuss Secretary Clinton's and Ambassador Holbrooke's vision for Afghan women. The discussion centered on their commitment to continue to empower women with additional education programs and entrepreneurial skills. They also thoroughly discussed reintegration and reconciliation plans and assured us that the clock will not be turned back on Afghan women.

Secretary Clinton acknowledged the work of the Institute's PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS program and encouraged us to continue our efforts and reach further into the rural areas of the country. Mrs. Bush also expressed her concern about talks with the Taliban, and she thanked the

Institute and asked us to continue to empower women to go further in their studies.



At the Council meeting, Secretary Clinton acknowledged the amazing work of the Institute's PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS program.

The Institute names new team members

The Institute is pleased to announce its newest team members, **Lindsey Buchanan** as **Director of Media Relations** and **Kelley Hanna** as **Director of Programs**. Both additions are particularly exciting, as it is a true sign of the Institute's continued growth and success.

As Director of Media Relations for the Institute, Lindsey's primary function is to oversee and coordinate all aspects of the Institute's press interactions, launch social media campaigns, manage all media, marketing and informational materials – all in the overall goal and effort to raise local, national and international awareness about the Institute both on and offline.

As Director of Programs for the Institute, Kelley's responsibilities will include creating and supervising the Institute's PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS program curriculum, logistics, and all the various events associated with the program in Afghanistan, Rwanda, and the United States.

For more information regarding Lindsey and Kelley's backgrounds, click [here](#).

We are thrilled about all of the recent happenings at the Institute over the past few months and those planned for the coming year, so keep reading our newsletter for new and exciting events and information!

Warmest regards,

Terry Neese



*As always, a special thank you goes out to
our wonderful sponsors and partners!*