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PARTNERSHIP STUDIES

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INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO ADDRESS NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS WITH SHIFT TO LOCAL JOB SOURCE: CARING WORK

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Internationally renowned social systems scientist and author Riane Eisler will be in New York September 17 to speak at the United Nations and in Washington DC on September 22 to address officers from U.S. foundations about a new approach to economics. Based on her new book, *The Real Wealth of Nations*, Eisler and a group of prominent advisors (including former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun, economist Randy Albelda, and other leaders of women's, children's, economic, political, and media organizations) are developing the Real Wealth of America (RWA) public policy project.

An important goal of the project is to accelerate the shift from the kind of work now rapidly being lost with the "uncaring" economics that drove and still drive the national and global economic crisis to a vast investment in the new local jobs for caring labor.

"The jobs we're losing to automation and outsourcing are not coming back," Eisler points out. "We've got to replace them with a new source of local jobs that can't be done by machines or lower paid workers elsewhere."

This source of jobs, Eisler's *Real Wealth of Nations* documents, is the work of caring economics—higher paid new jobs in caring for the sick, the elderly, the very young, the work of schools, hospitals, and every other kind of individual caring services and caring service agencies.

"As jobless men as well as women turn to this alternative, the shift is already underway," Eisler notes. "What's needed now is to put the power of a national initiative behind it."

Among points Eisler and economists and other experts are focusing on in developing the Real Wealth of America public policy project are:

- Neuroscience shows that the development of "high quality human capital" largely depends on good physical, mental, and emotional care, starting at birth.
- By failing to better invest in people from birth on we are not only suffering enormous "back-end" financial costs, but also failing to gain the enormous economic benefits of this emphasis.
- Proof of the consequences of this failure can be seen in how America has slipped from world leadership to a ranking lower than any other advanced nation – and even than

some much poorer nations – in rates of infant mortality, poverty, maternal mortality, and healthcare access and satisfaction.

At present, only economic and environmental impact statements are required by Congress. The RWA public policy project is developing new measures of the potential effect of new programs and legislation on the “real wealth” of our international standing in health, education, equality, democracy, human capacity development, and other quality of life indicators involved in a shift to a national policy of caring economics.

“Rather than trying to just patch up a system that is not sustainable, let’s use our economic crisis to move to an economic system that really meets human needs,” Eisler maintains. “As Einstein said, we can’t solve problems with the same thinking that created them. In our time of rapidly changing technological and social conditions, we must go deeper, to matters that conventional economic analyses and theories have ignored. We need a caring economics that no longer devalues the most important work: the work of caring for people, starting in early childhood, and the work of caring for our Mother Earth.”

NOTE: To download a draft on RWIS Indicators and Fact Sheet of Sample Metrics, as well as A Full-Spectrum Job Creation Proposal: Roadmap to a New Caring Economy — used by members of the U.S. Congress to promote investment in human infrastructure—go to www.rianeeisler.com

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