

The Indiana Commission for Women Receives National Recognition

INDIANAPOLIS (August 7, 2012) –The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) was one of this year’s annual Achievement Award recipients at the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) 42nd annual conference and business meeting, held in Charleston, West Virginia, July 25-27, 2012. The Award was received for ICW’s *Hoosier Women Speak Capacity Building Initiative*. Representing ICW at the conference was Kristin Svyantek Garvey, Executive Director, who stated, “It is an amazing honor to receive national recognition for *Hoosier Women Speak*. We undertook this initiative to identify the key issues women face, understand the critical needs that communities perceive as important, build trust with our constituents, and build relationships with regional partners. It is just one way we are working to build capacity for women’s progress in order to move Indiana women forward.”

In addition, Garvey was elected as Vice President of the NACW Board of Directors “Service at the executive committee level will offer an opportunity to strengthen not only the national organization, but each state, county or local commission who is working tirelessly for women’s full participation in all aspects of society,” stated Garvey. “I am humbled to represent the State of Indiana at the national level. That participation demonstrates Indiana’s commitment to addressing challenges today’s women face.”

Hosted by the West Virginia Women’s Commission, the annual NACW conference provided valuable workshops, networking and important information on national trends on the status of women. It provided attendees with an outstanding opportunity to connect with colleagues and peers across the country who are working on issues impacting women. Participants establish and strengthen coalitions, expand knowledge on commission operations, network with other professionals accomplishing similar work, and share programs and ideas to better enable individual commissions to use resources more effectively and efficiently.

Keynote speakers included Lilly Ledbetter, Equal Pay Activist; Gayle Manchin, former First Lady of West Virginia; Lucia Bruce, Regional Administrator of Region III for the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau; Catherine Ormerod, Director of Vision 2020; Cassaundra St. John and Victoria Wegwert of F7 Group which empowers female veterans and military women; and Deputy Administrator Nancy Leppink of the U.S. Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division. Among the many excellent workshops, sessions focused on human trafficking, public engagement through voting and public service, and social media.

For information on the Indiana Commission for Women, women's commissions in local communities or on starting a local commission, contact Kristin Garvey at the Indiana Commission for Women at (317) 232-6720 or info@icw.in.gov.

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About the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is the only professional organization for those working with commissions for women and is committed to equality and justice for women by increasing the effectiveness of member commissions and serving as their national voice. NACW is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) membership organization composed of regional, state, county and local commissions created by government to improve the status of women and of individual and affiliate members who believe in the work of women's commissions across the country. Born from a report published in 1963 by the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women established by President John F. Kennedy and under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, these commissions are located across the United States and its territories at the state, county and local levels. Each commission functions independently, but works with NACW to provide national leadership and focus on their collective concerns. Through NACW, member Commissions for Women keep the needs of women at the forefront of laws, policies, practices, and promote the improvement of the status of women

About the Indiana Commission for Women:

The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) acts as the voice of women to the public sector, communicating their needs, concerns, and viewpoints as well as celebrating their successes and contributions to the State of Indiana. ICW's mission is to understand the needs of Indiana women and their families, and to work strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive solutions. ICW is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family.