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New GCIR Board of Directors Share Diversity in Areas of Expertise

SEBASTOPOL, CA –Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), a national foundation affinity group affiliated with the Council on Foundations, elected to its Board of Directors four new members in addition to reelecting two others.

The four new members of the 14-person Board of Directors, elected to lead GCIR, are:

- Jocelyn Ancheta, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, Eagan, MN. Ms. Ancheta joined Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation in 2005. In that capacity, she manages *Healthy Together: Creating Community with New Americans*, a grantmaking initiative addressing the intersection of three important determinants of health: social connectedness, social adjustment and immigrant integration. Before that, Ms. Ancheta worked for The McKnight Foundation as a program officer in Children and Families for almost 11 years and has also served with legal advocacy organizations. She previously served on the GCIR board in 2003-04.
- Geri Mannion, Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York, NY. Ms. Mannion is director of the U.S. Democracy Program and of the Special Opportunities Fund at Carnegie Corporation of New York. The U.S. Democracy Program, which she has directed since 1998, focuses on immigrant civic integration, youth civic education, and election administration. Prior to directing these two programs, she staffed the Corporation's program of Special Projects for almost ten years. Ms. Mannion also worked for the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation with a variety of programs focusing on international affairs.
- Rebecca Rittgers, The Atlantic Philanthropies, New York, NY. Ms. Rittgers joined The Atlantic Philanthropies in 2001 and has served as the U.S. programme executive for the Global Reconciliation & Human Rights Programme since 2003. Previously, Ms. Rittgers worked with a small group of funders to establish The Second Chance Foundation and served as its chief operating officer. Her experiences in philanthropy also include ten years working at The Rockefeller Foundation, where she most recently was a research associate for its International Security program.
- Manuel Santamaría, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Mountain View, CA. Mr. Santamaría is a bilingual and bicultural facilitator with extensive community-based teaching and organizing experience. He joined Peninsula Community Foundation in 1999 and now leads the Immigrant Integration grantmaking strategy program at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Before joining the foundation, he developed and led initiatives for a network of family resource centers; helped develop education programs for children and adults; and has worked with local organizations that advocate for the protection of immigrant rights.

The two reelected members of the 14-person Board of Directors, who will continue to lead GCIR through January 2011, are:

- Henry Allen, Executive Director, Discount Foundation, Boston, MA. Mr. Allen is executive director of the Discount Foundation which focuses on alleviating poverty by supporting community organizing as well as community and union partnerships. Previously, he was the senior program officer at the Hyams Foundation in Boston for 16 years. Mr. Allen also has an extensive background in education. He taught at the high school and college levels, served as a dean at a community college, and directed a popular education school for people involved in workplace and community organizing in Boston.
- Cory Anderson, Senior Program Associate, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Little Rock, AR. Mr. Anderson is senior program associate, Community & Economic Development, at the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. Previously, he served as program associate for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Initiative for nearly seven years. Mr. Anderson has also utilized his knowledge about youth issues in a variety of capacities including his work at the Forum for Youth Investment, as a reporter with the Arkansas Gazette, and as a juvenile probation officer. Through his work with New Futures for Youth, he helped develop a model gang intervention program and worked on youth employability issues.

GCIR would like to thank Ellen Widess of the Rosenberg Foundation and Adriana Rocha formerly with the New York Foundation for their service on the GCIR board and their continued commitment to the field. Ms. Widess and Ms. Rocha rotated off the GCIR board in December 2008.

Founded in 1990 as a national network of foundations, GCIR seeks to move the philanthropic field to advance the contributions and address the needs of the world's growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations. With a core focus on the United States, GCIR provides grantmakers with opportunities for learning, networking, collaboration, and information resources that deepen philanthropy's understanding of immigrant and refugee issues. More than 1,500 grantmakers representing 600 some foundations utilize our information resources and participate in our programs each year.

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