

## **PRESS RELEASE – Rensselaerville, New York, January 5, 2012**

Last summer The Rensselaerville Institute made public its decision to sell the real estate portion of the organization – The Rensselaerville Meeting Center. This month it will finalize a sale of the property to The Carey Center for Global Good. The Carey Center for Global Good was started by one of The Institute’s longstanding and most generous board members, William P. Carey. It was with great sadness that staff and trustees received the news this week that Mr. Carey had passed away. The Institute is pleased that The Carey Center for Global Good will carry out his legacy of supporting positive change in the world and is confident that it will undertake to do this with the resources and leadership needed to be successful.

The Rensselaerville Institute was founded in 1963 as a not-for-profit educational enterprise chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Upon the sale of the property, The Institute will continue as a non-profit organization to do what it has always done best, which is to achieve clear and quantifiable outcomes for human gain by convening, training, and supporting innovators and entrepreneurs throughout the country. The Institute was a pioneer in self-help work and demonstrated success in this approach in beleaguered mining towns in Delaware and Pennsylvania, struggling communities in the Rio Grande Valley, and with groups of migrant workers in central Florida. Currently, its work focusses on intervening in and lending tactical support to schools, communities, universities, foundations, government agencies and other non-profits while continuing to employ the notion of human sparkplugs as the starting point for lasting change. The Institute operates at both a strategic and granular level to make sure that the work it does to build human capital and human gain is both measurable and sustainable. It is this unique method of working that caused the Wall Street Journal to dub it “The Think Tank with Muddy Boots.”

The Institute has always been nimble enough to adjust to tough times. It is why when hundreds of thousands of non-profits were shuttering their doors in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, The Institute not only survived but its programs took on new clients and projects. With substantial reductions in conference center business due to the poor economy, rather than hang on and risk the core of what The Institute is, the Board and management took proactive steps to look at options. Clyde E. Rankin, III, Chairman of The Rensselaerville Institute Board of Trustees stated, “In William P. Carey’s vision for a property to house the work he sought to undertake, we found the right answer: a benefactor with the resources to operate and maintain the campus. The non-profits that thrive in tough times are those willing and able to make tough choices and The Institute is just such an organization.”

In its core programs of School Turnaround and The Center for What Works, The Institute possesses cutting-edge initiatives of national scale and prominence. These do not depend on a specific location for its offices as much as they depend on the experience and expertise of its staff to help people where they – and the challenges they face – exist. The Rensselaerville Institute’s President, Gillian Williams, noted, “Helping children to achieve success in struggling schools from Alabama to Ohio to New York and helping organizations

and communities achieve the strongest possible improvements in human lives - be that in Appalachia or inner-city New York - requires a responsive and agile organization. Without the meeting center to maintain, monies generated by programs can be reinvested to grow the program side. For clients and program staff this work has always been the meaning of The Rensselaerville Institute.”

The Institute is extremely fortunate in the sale of the Meeting Center to The Carey Center in that it will continue to be able to use the facilities. This gives The Institute the benefits of the campus: a beautiful location with an attentive and experienced staff for its trainings and other conference needs without the costs of upkeep and management. The Rensselaerville Institute is back to its roots: creating innovative approaches to human gain for people in need.

Offices will be maintained in Albany County and conveniently relocated midway between the state capitol and the Rensselaerville campus. Please direct inquiries to TRI President, Gillian Williams, at 518-797-3783.