

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHILADELPHIA (August 2, 2012)- Vision 2020, a national initiative working to achieve women's economic and social equality, announces the 2012 recipients of awards that recognize outstanding achievements by women leaders.

The Visionary Award recipient, **Jennifer Siebel Newsom**, is the award-winning writer, director and producer of 2011 Sundance documentary *Miss Representation* and 2012 documentary *The Invisible War*.

The Legacy Award recipient, **Barbara Roberts**, served as Governor of Oregon from 1991-1995 and was the first woman governor of the state.

Vision 2020, which began in 2010, is a decade-long initiative of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine.

"We are pleased to recognize two courageous American women who have used their unique talents and positions to advance equality for women and girls," said Lynn H. Yeakel, Vision 2020 founder and co-chair. "Jennifer and Barbara serve as an inspiration for us today and tomorrow."

The award recipients will be recognized at an evening event on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 in Portland, OR during Vision 2020's Third Annual Congress. With the theme, *Collaborating for Change*, the Congress will bring together Delegates from 50 states as well as National Ally organizations, Nov. 14-16 at the Portland Hilton, to assess progress on strategies to achieve women's equality by the year 2020, the centennial of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. The Congress will also recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage in the state of Oregon.

Siebel Newsom created *Miss Representation* as part of a call-to-action campaign to educate, engage and empower women and girls and eradicate sexism in the media. Her documentary first aired nationally on Oprah's network, OWN, in October, 2011, and continues to be shown in public forums around the country. Siebel's latest work *The Invisible War*, released in June 2012, discusses sexual abuse in the U.S military.

Roberts was the first woman to serve as majority leader in the Oregon House of Representatives, won two terms as Oregon Secretary of State and served in local and county government in Portland. Roberts is also a Visionary Delegate for Vision 2020.

Vision 2020 delegates have developed projects to advance equality around the country. Vision 2020 collaborates with and promotes initiatives of its 49 National Allies, organizations representing more than 20 million women and girls.

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