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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“LOCAL GIRL” CHOSEN AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT  
GIRLS INCORPORATED OF THE ISLAND CITY**

**Alameda, CA** - Girls Inc. of the Island City is pleased to announce the selection of Karen Kenney as the organization’s new Executive Director effective October 3, 2005.

Kenney was selected from an extremely competitive group of applicants from Alameda, the Bay Area and around the world. A native of Alameda and a graduate of Encinal High School, Kenney has been on the staff at UC Berkeley since 1981 and is currently Dean of Students, Division of Student Affairs there. She said she looks forward to using her experience in education and education-related organizations to serve Girls Inc. as the local organization moves forward in meeting its goal of reaching more girls.

"Leading Girls Inc. of the Island City will be a privilege," Kenney said. "I look forward to contributing to my home town by helping girls realize their dreams and potential."

Fall session at Girls Inc.’s Meyers Center for girls and Activity Centers for boys and girls started Aug. 29 under the continuing leadership of Interim Executive Director Pam Williams, who has led the organization since its former executive director retired in May.

The Board of Directors is grateful for the community’s support during the recruitment process over the last few months, said Board President Melissa Marsh.

"Under Karen Kenney’s leadership, we look forward with great confidence to our 41<sup>st</sup> year of inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold," Marsh said. "We also look forward to continuing our service to Alameda with AUSD by providing exemplary before and after school childcare for boys and girls at seven Alameda elementary schools."

The mission of Girls Incorporated of the Island City is to inspire all girls to be **strong, smart and bold<sup>(SM)</sup>** through innovative programs, activities and advocacy.

Kenney will be in her new office at the Girls Inc. Meyers Center starting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. She said she looks forward to meeting the children and parents served by Girls Inc. as well as others who are involved in youth education and community activities in Alameda.

Girls Incorporated of the Island City is an affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Incorporated of the Island City has provided the only quality program in Alameda designed specifically for girls in the girls membership program at the Meyers Center, where girls are challenged to explore math, science, and computers, examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world.

Girls Inc. also offers childcare for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bayfarm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, Otis, and Paden. For more information about Girls Inc., visit [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org).

A photo of Karen Kenney is available upon request. To receive a photo, or to find out more about Girls Inc., please contact Development Director Kristin Butler at (510) 521-1743 or [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org).

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