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**Retirement Planning Becoming More Challenging, More Important**

NICSA Joins Effort to Promote Retirement Planning

**Boston, MA**—Changes in employee benefits, longer life spans, uncertainty with Social Security and Medicare, and the rising cost of health care have made planning for and funding retirement more difficult than it was for previous generations. Combined with the fallout from the recent recession, the result is that Americans are experiencing low levels of confidence in their retirement expectations. In fact, the Insured Retirement Institute (IRI) reported last year that a quarter of all Baby Boomers have little to no confidence in their ability to meet their retirement goals. But the National Retirement Planning Coalition—a group of prominent financial industry and advocacy organizations—says that there is hope, and it all begins with a financial roadmap and a plan for saving.

The coalition has worked to organize National Retirement Planning Week® —a national effort to help consumers focus on their financial needs in retirement. **NICSA**is proud to announce that it will once again be supporting National Retirement Planning Week® 2012, which will take place from April 9 to 13.

“Retirement planning can be challenging,” said *Theresa Hamacher, President of NICSA*. “Our members – investment management firms and their service providers – are dedicated to making the process simpler for individuals. That’s not any easy task given the complexity of the laws and regulations governing retirement plans.”

The coalition—which is spearheaded by IRI—recognizes that the need to educate Americans on retirement planning is an ongoing effort and is committed to making this a national priority. The National Retirement Planning Week® and other coalition activities will demonstrate that it is possible to “Retire On Your Terms” if comprehensive retirement plans are properly developed and managed. To support these education efforts, the coalition has collected the latest resources to help consumers and financial professionals focus on long-term financial goals. These tools are available year-round at [www.retireonyourterms.org](http://www.retireonyourterms.org).

Throughout the week, educational materials will be made available in conjunction with the week’s agenda, and the coalition will be encouraging retirement planning through a nationally distributed radio spot, a coordinated media outreach program and a host of events throughout the week.

To support the efforts of the coalition, NICSA will host a webinar on Wednesday, April 11, from 2:00 - 3:00 EDT, about the complex issue of beneficiary designations. The webinar is free and open to all interested parties. Registration is required and can be accessed from [NICSA's website](http://www.nicsa.org/default.asp?contentID=375).

**About National Retirement Planning Week® 2012:** National Retirement Planning Week® 2012 will take place from April 9 to 13. Held during financial literacy month, National Retirement Planning Week® is led by the National Retirement Planning Coalition—a group of prominent financial industry, education and advocacy organizations that have joined together to increase awareness of the need for comprehensive retirement planning.

**About the National Retirement Planning Coalition:** The National Retirement Planning Coalitionrecognizes that the need to educate Americans on retirement planning is an ongoing effort and is committed to making retirement planning education a national priority. The National Retirement Planning Week® and other coalition activities will demonstrate that it is possible to “Retire On Your Terms” if comprehensive retirement plans are properly developed and managed. To support these education efforts, the coalition maintains a year-round website—[www.retireonyourterms.org](http://www.retireonyourterms.org/)—offering the latest resources to both consumers and financial professionals to help them stay focused on long-term financial goals.

The coalition is headed by IRI, and includes America Saves, American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI), American Savings Education Council (ASEC), Americans for Secure Retirement (ASR), Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, Defined Contribution Institutional Investment Association (DCIIA), Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), Financial Services Institute (FSI), Financial Services Roundtable (FSR), Jump$tart Coalition, National Association for Fixed Annuities (NAFA), NICSA, Retirement Income Industry Association (RIIA), The American College, The Aspen Institute, and the Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement.

**About NICSA:** NICSA is the leading provider of independent education and networking forums to professionals in the global investment management community. It is a network of nearly 10,000 business professionals from within the investment management industry and the firms that support the industry, including mutual fund complexes, investment management companies, custodian banks, transfer agents and independent providers of specialized products and services. The Association consists of corporate member firms with offices operating in major financial centers around the world.

Membership fees are surprisingly small, yet the benefits of membership are anything but. NICSA offers the most comprehensive range of services in the industry, allowing members to learn, network and share best practices locally, nationally and globally. Visit [www.nicsa.org](file:///C:\Users\ellen\Desktop\NICSA\General\www.nicsa.org)

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