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Contact:

Jill Mamey, Stratiscope

jill@stratiscope.com

818-570-4308

Dr. Lucy Jones Launches Center for Science and Society

Renowned scientist to focus on the application of science for more resilient communities

LOS ANGELES (August 29, 2016) -- After more than three decades of leading her field as a public servant, noted seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones has launched a center to continue her dedication to the public good. “The Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society” has been created to foster the understanding and application of scientific information in the creation of more resilient communities.

Working with both the public and private sectors, The Center will increase communities' ability to adapt and be resilient to the dynamic changes of the world around them from natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

“We will help decision-makers understand how they can partner with scientists and use results of scientific studies to make better informed decisions and help scientists become better communicators of their results,” said Jones, who is known for her groundbreaking research in science and her skill in communicating complicated information, especially regarding earthquakes.

The Center focuses on activities that further actual risk reduction, as Dr. Jones has accomplished in previous projects like the ShakeOut Scenario, which is the basis for the world’s largest drill. Her ShakeOut Scenario has been pivotal to change the United States’ understanding of earthquake risk. Dr. Jones also spearheaded the City of Los Angeles’s Resilience By Design program for seismic safety and resilience as well as conducted foundational research in earthquake statistics, early warning, and aftershocks.

“Our aim is to understand and communicate where the greatest vulnerabilities lie and what actions can be taken to reduce the risks that are the most cost-effective,” according to Jones. “The answers will depend on the particular region and hazard, but there are important commonalities.”

Since the late 1980s, Jones has been known as a voice of both calm and authority before and after seismic events, having been interviewed countless times both on and off camera. She narrated live the tsunami in Japan in 2011 for MSNBC viewers, and she is often remembered for holding her 19-month old during television interviews in 1992 following the 6.1 Joshua Tree earthquake. She spent the last decade of her career

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connecting decision-makers in government, business, and communities with scientific results that could support the development of more resilient communities. Through her Center, she will continue this work.

Jones already has projects underway ranging from developing resilience programs for community and faith-based organizations, educational materials for individuals, and tools for local governments to assess their seismic vulnerability.

“The goal of a disaster resilient community requires engagement from all sectors of society,” explained Jones. “Individuals, community organizations, businesses and government all have roles to play in creating a resilient community. This Center aims to bring all sectors to the table and engage them in developing effective solutions to address our vulnerabilities. It is not just a scientific problem; it is an extremely interdisciplinary problem that requires a wide range of expertise.”

In order to realize this goal, Jones has recruited cross disciplinary colleagues Ines Pearce and John Bwarie.

“I first worked with Ines and John in the creation of the Great ShakeOut and know that they have combined skills in emergency management, business continuity, communications, and community engagement that can bring the science to all who can use it,” Jones continued.

Ines Pearce has spent 23 years in emergency management and building extensive public-private partnerships, most notably as Director of Project Impact for the City of Seattle. Having represented the World Economic Forum at the United Nations, as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Pearce is an internationally recognized expert in the field.

John Bwarie has helped craft messages and engage communities with Jones for almost a decade and worked in and with cities across the US. His early career entailed working in Southern California local government, and he is known for building cross-sector networks to enhance community development and engagement.

More information about the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society, visit DrLucyJonesCenter.org.

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