

**Statement of the Board of Directors, Central Asia Institute
Regarding Recent Media Reports
April 16, 2011**

From the time the Central Asia Institute was first created, its mission and that of its co-founder, Greg Mortensen, has been to support and promote educational opportunities by helping local communities build and operate schools to educate the children, especially girls, and supporting women's vocational centers, libraries and other educational resources in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Concurrently, CAI's outreach efforts include educating the American and international public about the need to promote peace through expanding educational opportunities.

Greg's speeches, books and public appearances are the primary means of educating the American people on behalf of the Institute and he is CAI's principal fundraiser. He devotes his time and his life to this important work. CAI's activities and Greg's are closely intertwined.

- Greg worked for many years for little or no compensation, but is now paid a salary by the Institute as its Executive Director. In addition some of his expenses incurred to promote the Institute's domestic education programs are, appropriately, paid by the organization.
- His books are advertised and distributed by the Institute as a primary means of fulfilling its mission of educating the American public.
- He receives speaking fees for many of his appearances (although he also volunteers his time for many audiences, including military preparing to deploy to Afghanistan) and royalties from the sale of his books.

Late last year, an attorney retained by CAI questioned whether these practices might raise issues of CAI providing "excess benefits" to Greg – an issue that was also raised by the American Institute of Philanthropy. The Board and Greg took these questions very seriously and asked counsel to conduct an in-depth review of CAI's activities and its relationship with Greg. As a result of this analysis, counsel concluded there is no "excess benefit" -- that is, CAI appropriately receives a greater benefit from Greg's activities than Greg does himself.

Through his work empowering communities in some of the most remote areas in the world, and through his successful books that share the stories of his experiences, Greg has accomplished the real and extraordinary work of bringing education to girls and boys in Pakistan and Afghanistan who otherwise would have no educational opportunity to enable them to help themselves and their communities. It would be truly tragic if the sensationalized allegations against him were to harm the future of this crucial work.