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Rita Henley Jensen Hands Off Leadership Torch at Women's eNews

Rita Henley Jensen has served [Women's eNews](#), Inc., for more than 15 years, as the first Editor in Chief and President of the Board. She embodies the organization's long-term commitment to social justice and has opened doors of opportunity for women's issues and writers. Henley Jensen announced her transition, effective May 31, 2016, at the inspiring [21 Leaders for the 21st Century](#) gala on Monday, May 2, 2016. She has been accepted as a research associate at the [Five College Women's Studies Research Center](#).

"I am honored that I was able to help transition Women's eNews from a founder-led organization to one that is now well-positioned to deliver its mission further and faster," said Henley Jensen. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the international women's community, and look forward to a return to my first passion – investigative journalism and exploring racial and gender inequities through my research project, *Jane Crow*."

As a pioneer in reporting on the lives of women, Women's eNews has been at the forefront of groundbreaking work in reporting on safety, reproductive rights and justice, black maternal health and economics. Under Henley Jensen's leadership, Women's eNews innovations reached new heights. Recent examples include Women's eNews' expanded work with the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century Awards, the launch of Teen Voices at Women's eNews and the establishment of our Opening the Way Women's History Walking Tour in downtown Manhattan.

"Women's eNews is a force of change," noted Ambassador Alice M. Dear, Women's eNews' Board Chair. "We are grateful to Rita's leadership and success in bringing considerable visibility to those dedicated to improving the lives of women and teen girls around the world, and to Women's eNews' role in bringing stories of truth, justice and positive change to the public."

During this period of transition, Kristen Elechko will serve as Interim Executive Director and will work closely with the Board and team to keep Women's eNews and its innovations at the forefront of social justice. Elechko has twenty years of experience in nonprofit and for profit management. Her skills in communication, fundraising and innovative products will serve the organization during its next growth phase.

"Kristen has served as a leader for Women's eNews for over a year and understands the Women's eNews vision, its services, and how we serve our audience," Board Chair Dear stated confidently. "She is held in high regard both internally and in the sector as a whole."

Women's eNews is excited about this new phase of leadership for both the field of investigative journalism focused on women and teen girls and also for the lives changed by its reporting. We are all incredibly grateful for Rita Henley Jensen's tremendous contributions to the organization, to New York and to the global community.