

Consciousness Revolution

First Global Co-Active Summit marks turning point for CTI

For its first-ever conference, CTI, one of the world's oldest coach training schools, decided not to hold a conference at all. "We wanted to put on a Summit because it was time for CTI to take a stand and time for the coaching profession to unify around a common vision," says Karen Kimsey-House, co-founder and CEO of CTI. "If the chaos of the past several years is any indication, the world we live in is entering a time of huge change. Nobody could do what we've done to the planet if we were conscious of and connected to each other. We all serve our coaching clients to be true to themselves and live fuller lives, but if we're not effecting change on a global level when the stakes for human survival are this high, then we can't help people for very

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long on a personal level. We have to shift the way we think and act as never before and CTI wants and welcomes everyone who is interested to step up and lead this sustainable, transformative change the planet is so desperately calling out for."

Hence the challenge CTI put forth at The Global Co-Active Summit, held Feb. 24-26 on Marco Island, Florida,



Summit attendees celebrate co-active coaching making a difference in the world.

was "What's YOUR Piece?" – referring to the belief that everyone has an important piece or job to do in the puzzle that is the world. CTI created a 500-piece puzzle seven feet high by 17-1/2 feet long to illustrate the journey humankind will need to take to leap into the unknown future with courage and purpose. Each attendee received a piece and had to find where it fit in the literal big picture. The 400 participants from 22 countries enthusiastically put the puzzle together in all of 20 minutes.

Global social activist, author, über fundraiser and Summit keynoter Lynne Twist further inspired attendees to live a life governed by their highest calling and take a stand to shift the planet's trajectory to a sustainable, just future. Many coaches signed on to the grassroots movement, called "Four Years. Go." to start to turn climate change around (an initiative Twist initiated and which CTI supports). "Every choice we make matters in the next four years to foment a change," said Twist. Also keynoting was Kevin Cash-

man, author of *Leadership from the Inside Out*, which has been required reading in CTI's Co-Active Leadership course for years. "No behaviors are neutral," said Cashman. "They either enrich or diminish your life." He encouraged attendees to see leadership transformation as an experience of being fully present and open to risk – two essential qualities to face the challenges ahead.

A number of Summit attendees who went through CTI's Co-Active Leadership program have already found their "piece." Some students from Cairo led the revolution in Egypt this year. Athena Katsaros, CPCC (Certified Professional Co-Active Coach) mentored a young Afghan woman through the



Karen Kimsey-House, CEO and co-founder of CTI, challenges attendees to take transformational change to a global level.

Publisher's Note: *choice* Magazine was a proud sponsor, supporter and attendee of the Summit.

application process for a scholarship to Bucknell University and a move to the U.S. to attend college. She graduated in May 2011. Jeremy Stover, CPCC, took Co-Active coaches down to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to coach survivors and heads of the recovery. Yossi Eilot, CPCC, PCC, a Jewish Israeli Co-Active coach, is searching for an Arab Muslim counterpart to co-lead leadership training for Israelis and Palestinians together. "What better use is there for the skills we coaches have? The world is your client," says Sabrina Roblin, VP of Global Leadership Development for CTI, who produced the Summit.

Sustainability is not a new mission for CTI, which was founded in 1992 as The Coaches Training Institute. "We've always been about balance and quality of life," says Kimsey-House. "What's changed is that we are sharing it with a much wider audience now and saying how much we really mean it."

The San Rafael, California-based company has trained 35,000 coaches in 24

countries and is adding new countries every year.

Kimsey-House is emphatic that everyone, whether CTI-trained or not, is welcome to join this revolution of human consciousness. "Transformation is confusing and scary and of course we think our Co-Active tools and skills can be enormously helpful in facing these challenges, but there are many organizations working to create a global shift. Our work is one piece of the solution. We want to inspire people to identify their 'piece' and give it all they've got. If you're interested in transformation, we're interested in your piece, too." •

For more information, photos, videos and discussion on CTI's First Global Co-Active Summit, please visit www.coactivesummit.com. A DVD of the Co-Active Summit keynote addresses by Kevin Cashman and Lynne Twist along with the general sessions, plus opening and closing ceremonies, is available through www.coactivesummit.com. To learn more about CTI's coaching and leadership programs, please visit www.thecoaches.com.

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June 16-18, 2011

Madrid, Spain
www.coachingconference-madrid2011.com

2011 ICF Annual International Conference

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www.coachfederation.org/conference

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Radisson Hotel
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www.michigancoaches.org/events/conference-2011.php

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