

Professional and Technical Diversity Network of

For more information, please contact:
Steve Carpenter
Kirkwood Community College
319-398-4939

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECEPTION TO WELCOME NEW CORRIDOR RESIDENTS: Professional and Technical Diversity Network Event at History Center Highlights Multicultural Efforts

[CEDAR RAPIDS] – The Professional and Technical Diversity Network (PTDN) of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City will host a Corridor Welcome Reception this month. The Thursday, Nov. 17 event is free and open to the public.

PTDN and other community groups interested in promoting cultural and professional diversity will host an event at the Carl and Mary Koehler History Center, 614 First Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids. The public is welcome at the free event, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Representatives of the Iowa Welcome Center, First Step and Diversity Focus will also attend the program.

The event is aimed at promoting public awareness of the many individuals and groups promoting diversity in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area, according to PTDN Board Chair, Linda Schreiber.

“As our PTDN group has built an awareness of the benefits of a diverse workforce and multicultural awareness, we have also learned of good efforts on the part of other concerned and forward-thinking people. We hope this event will encourage others to join in these good works and build a better community for us all,” Schreiber said.

Refreshments will be served at the Nov. 17 event, with everyone welcome to network and share ideas. Newcomers to the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Technology Corridor are especially encouraged to attend.

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This reception continues PTDN's five year commitment of advocating for diversity in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Technology Corridor™. In February 2000, a group of business and community leaders launched the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City PTDN nonprofit chapter to nurture and celebrate diversity as well as help attract, retain and develop diverse employees in the Corridor.

PTDN activities include networking opportunities to connect new employees to resources and people in Corridor communities. The board of directors, representing private sector businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Technology Corridor are committed to support diversity through a collaborative, non-competitive approach to recruit, develop and retain a diverse employee base.

Businesses and organizations supporting PTDN include: AEGON USA, Alliant Energy, Bankers Advertising/TruArt, Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and Priority One, Cedar Rapids Community Schools, Coe College and Sodexo Catering, Frontier Natural Products Co-Op, Gazette Communications, Howard R. Green, Iowa City Area Development Group, the Iowa City Area Association of REALTORS®, Iowa City Community School District, Department of Veterans Affairs Iowa City Health Care System, Kirkwood Community College, Panera Bread Bakery-Cafes, Pearson Educational Measurement, Procter & Gamble, Oral-B, Rockwell Collins, Sales Associates of Cedar Rapids, Wells Fargo and The University of Iowa.

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For more information concerning the Professional/Technical Diversity Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, please contact chair@ptdn.net.