

## **Professional and Technical Diversity Network of**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **RECEPTION TO WELCOME NEW CORRIDOR RESIDENTS: Professional and Technical Diversity Network Event April 19 at Iowa City's “Old Brick”**

[CEDAR RAPIDS] – The Professional and Technical Diversity Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City will hold a Welcome Reception Wednesday, April 19 at the Old Brick Historic Church, Market and Linton Streets in Iowa City. The free event is set for 5 to 7 p.m.

The networking and social event will highlight diversity efforts in the Technology Corridor, especially among young professionals. Presenters will include Iowa City Mayor Ross Wilburn, Andy Stoll of The James Gang, and Charity Roberts of Access Iowa.

Networking is encouraged, and refreshments will be served. Attendees are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item for donation to the Iowa City Crisis Center. Newcomers to the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Technology Corridor are especially encouraged to attend.

This event and others in the PTDN schedule are 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 of other concerned and forward-thinking people. We hope our on-going receptions will encourage others to join in these good works and build a better community for us all,” Schreiber said.

This reception continues PTDN's five year commitment of advocating for diversity in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Technology Corridor™. In May 2000, a group of business and community

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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. This past summer, PTDN volunteers also launched a series of Third Places – informal, friendly environments in which to network with new friends interested in our community’s diversity. These neutral places give us a chance to find and visit establishments in our Corridor communities that we may otherwise never encounter. We try to pick places we feel celebrate diversity in our community

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, the Iowa College Foundation, Iowa City Veterans 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, The University of Iowa and Virtual Interactive Families.

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*For more information concerning the Professional/Technical Diversity Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, please contact [chair@ptdn.net](mailto:chair@ptdn.net).*