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Media Release

Dubuque Human Rights Commission Offers Speakers Bureau to Address Issues of Race, Disability, National Origin, and Sexual Orientation

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- The Dubuque Human Rights Commission Speakers Bureau is expanding to include speakers on race, national origin, and disability. The new programs will be available beginning in October.

The speakers bureau is a free service which was initially launched in January of 2007 and focused on sexual orientation issues. It offers short presentations given by community volunteers. They are available to speak to a wide variety of groups including schools, classes, businesses, civic groups, religious organizations, or parents. Groups interested in having a speaker can request the topic of their choice.

Kelly Larson, director for the Dubuque Human Rights Department said, "The speakers bureau is an educational resource to help people connect with others from various backgrounds."

Presentations will also include brief information on human rights law and biographies of the speakers. Each presentation will include significant time for input, questions, and discussion regarding the specific issue being presented. Molly Menster, Human Relations Specialist for the Dubuque Human Rights Department, added, "This initiative is also meant to place a human face on an abstract issue. We invite the Dubuque community to use this program and the speakers as resources."

In order to schedule a *free* speakers bureau presentation, call the City of Dubuque Human Rights Department at (563) 589-4190.

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