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NEWS RELEASE

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El-Amin Named Dubuque’s Multicultural Family Center Director

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware has announced that Abeni El-Amin has been named the new director of the Multicultural Family Center. El-Amin began April 17 and replaced Gil Spence, president of the Multicultural Family Center Board, who had been serving as acting director.

"Abeni brings to Dubuque an enthusiasm and passion for community. She has been engaged deeply in non-profit and civic work, both of which will serve her well as the Multicultural Family Center director," said Ware. "Her strengths include building partnerships and diverse collaborations. These will serve well to continue to build upon the initiatives of the center and its programs."

As Multicultural Family Center director, El-Amin will work closely with the over 70 community partnerships already established at the center. The Multicultural Family Center has, in its short history, built upon its mission to "empower all families and community members of Dubuque to reach their potential and build unity out of diversity." Program participation increased by over 50 percent over a year ago. Cultural events large and small increase awareness and understanding of local diversity.

"I am honored the City of Dubuque has chosen me for this position," said El-Amin. "It is my desire to build upon the previous work of the many committed stakeholders, volunteers, staff, board and city council to authentically collaborate at the deepest levels to maintain and uplift the Multicultural Family Center’s world-class commitment to champion diversity."

El-Amin comes to Dubuque from North Carolina, where she worked as the founder and executive director of Project Ricochet, Inc., an organization that promotes productive lifestyles to minority youth prone to criminal behavior. In that role, she developed programs,

implemented strategic plans, wrote grants, and oversaw day-to-day operations. El-Amin also served as an adjunct political science professor at Shaw University and Wake Technical Community College. She holds bachelor's degrees in marketing and economics and master's degrees in human resource management and management information systems from Kentucky State University. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in business administration in organizational leadership from North Central University.

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