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NEWS RELEASE

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Muhammad Named Dubuque’s Multicultural Family Center Director

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware has announced that Farris Muhammad has been named the new director of the Multicultural Family Center located in The Ruby Sutton Building. Muhammad will begin in late February.

“Farris is passionate about diversity, student engagement, and community. He brings to Dubuque his education, research, and work experience which includes working with children and families in the areas of personal resiliency, reducing isolation, and giving voice and exposure to the marginalized. This background will serve him well as the Multicultural Family Center director,” said Ware.

Muhammad will assume leadership of the center which has been led by acting director Sarah Petersen. Ware noted, “We appreciate her leadership and commitment to the high-quality programs that people enjoy as a part of the center’s programming. Together Farris, Sarah, and the MFC staff will make a strong leadership team continuing to move the mission of the Center forward in Dubuque.”

As Multicultural Family Center director, Muhammad will work closely with the over 70 community partnerships already established at the center. The center is a partnership between the City of Dubuque and the Multicultural Family Center Board, a 501c3 non-profit organization. Board chairperson John Stewart said, “I greatly respect how Farris has overcome poverty and other life challenges, his multicultural base, and his management

education and experience. He's informed, passionate, and a good listener—an excellent fit for this position.”

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.

“I am honored the City of Dubuque has chosen me for the director of the Multicultural Family Center position” said Muhammad. “I am eager to engage in the meaningful intercultural work that, collectively, the City of Dubuque, Multicultural Family Center staff, board of directors, and volunteers have proven to be dedicated to the improvement of. I believe all families, community members, and society at-large benefits when we increase our cultural competence.”

Muhammad previously owned and operated Reciprocal Tutoring Service. He has a bachelor's degree in business management from Northwood University in Midland, Mich.; a master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti; and a Ph.D. in philosophy with an area of specialization of education administration and policy as well as a certificate in interdisciplinary qualitative research from the University of Georgia in Athens.

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Farris Muhammad