

PRESS RELEASE

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**Lake County Workforce Development Board and Committee Members Successfully Complete
Inclusive Leadership Institute Workshops in Support of Continued Equity Efforts**

Waukegan, IL – December 14, 2021 – The Lake County Workforce Development Board, in support of its key imperative of creating a culture of equitable prosperity, has successfully hosted a series of extensive, in-depth diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training opportunities for board and committee members via a series of Inclusive Leadership Institute (ILI) workshops.

ILI is a catalyst for extraordinary leadership transformation in organizations of all sizes and industries by leading change in organizational culture and bridging the gap between inclusion and leadership. Additionally, ILI maximizes impact via interactive, dynamic discussions focused on creating a culturally competent and diverse workforce capable of fostering a truly inclusive work environment.

The DEI-focused training opportunities included a series of four workshops covering such critical objectives as examining fundamental concepts and theories that will help lay the foundation for creating an inclusive and equitable organizational culture, providing valuable knowledge and skills needed to effectively and respectfully communicate with people across diverse cultural backgrounds, challenging participants to think critically and deeply about some of the more difficult and complex topics that center around diversity and inclusion, and equipping workforce development professionals with the knowledge and awareness that will



guide them in cultivating an anti-racist workplace that is inclusive of employees who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC).

Participants who successfully completed all four equity workshops represented an important cross-section of Lake County’s workforce development system from both the public and private sectors, including the Lake County Workforce Development Board, Lake County Workforce Development Department, Job Center of Lake County, College of Lake County, Highland Park District 113, Hispanic American Community Education and Services (HACES), Sysmex America, Inc., CR Search, Inc., Fischer Paper Products, United Conveyor Corporation, Horizon Benefit Services, and Assured Healthcare Staffing.

Karen Stoneman, current Board Chair for the Lake County Workforce Development Board and Vice President of Human Resources for Sysmex America, Inc., completed the series of four workshops and shared her positive experience by stating, “All participants, myself included, gained increased awareness and expanded knowledge empowering ourselves to become agents of change within each of our respective organizations, equipped with the necessary tools to productively and meaningfully lead conversations and initiatives around diversity, inclusion, equity, and anti-racism. I am grateful to the Workforce Board for hosting these valuable workshops and for its commitment to supporting ongoing equity initiatives.”

About Lake County Workforce Development Board

The Lake County Workforce Development Board is a workforce development leader in the county, region, and state. The Workforce Board collaborates with key partners and stakeholders to lead performance-driven and innovative strategies that develop, align, and integrate the workforce development system.

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