

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Ang Bennett(they/them)
Sr. Communications Manager
402-819-8706
ang@inclusive-communities.org

Inclusive Communities announces organizational restructuring amidst funding challenges

OMAHA, Neb. (Feb. 27, 2025) – Inclusive Communities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering belonging and transformative community dialogue for more than 86 years, is restructuring in response to significant funding challenges and administrative hurdles.

In response to ongoing efforts to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives nationwide, Inclusive Communities has faced financial strain that has necessitated difficult decisions, including staff reductions and programmatic shifts. Despite these challenges, the organization remains steadfast in its mission to confront prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination.

“As the executive director of Inclusive Communities, this decision weighs heavily on my heart,” said Cammy Watkins. “The loss of valued colleagues and impactful programs is deeply painful, but we are committed to ensuring the longevity of our mission, even in the face of adversity.”

As part of the restructuring, most staff members will depart on March 31, 2025. Two staff members – Executive Director Cammy Watkins and Operations Specialist, Mandy True – will remain to lead the organization into its next chapter. Additionally, two staff members will stay through April 15 to support the successful completion of the IncluCity youth leadership camp, which will be held April 4-7.

“To Brittany, Lucia, Dominic, Ang, David, Veronica, and Nikki – your dedication and passion have been the heart of this organization. Your contributions extend beyond Inclusive Communities and will continue to shape our community in profound ways,” Watkins added.

As Inclusive Communities adapts to this transition, our organization will focus on sustaining key programs with available resources:

- **IncluCity:** The renowned youth leadership camp, entering its 25th year, will return to an annual format with a revised curriculum, expanding accessibility for system-impacted youth and those unable to travel.
- **LeadDIVERSITY:** This program will conclude under Inclusive Communities at the end of its current cohort, with efforts to transition its legacy to a partnering organization.
- **Omaha Table Talks:** The program will conclude in March, with its structure being open-sourced to grassroots collaborators to continue fostering vital conversations.
- **Transformational Leadership:** This initiative will remain, focusing on accessible leadership development for individuals shaping psychologically safe and healthy workplaces and communities.
- **Conversations for Change:** The annual speaker series will continue to bring national thought leaders to Omaha, fostering discussions on confronting societal injustices.
- **Humanitarian Awards:** Marking 70 years of honoring changemakers, this event will persist as a fundraising effort and a testament to the power of joy as resistance.

Inclusive Communities calls on supporters, partners, and advocates to rally behind its mission during this critical time. “We have never done this work alone. Now, more than ever, we need to link arms to sustain and strengthen our impact,” Watkins urged. Contributions – whether through financial support, volunteerism, or community collaboration – will be vital to ensuring that Inclusive Communities can continue fostering dialogue, education, and advocacy for a more just society.

For more information on how to support Inclusive Communities, visit www.inclusive-communities.org/getinvolved.

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About Inclusive Communities

Since 1938, Inclusive Communities has served Nebraska, Iowa, and the surrounding region by directing our efforts in the areas of youth, community and workplace human relations, and leadership programming. Our mission is to create inclusive communities by promoting understanding and respect among all people.