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### **Region Five Development Commission Staff Continues 'The Good Life...for All' Initiative**

STAPLES, MN – Three Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) staff and one partner; Arlene Jones, Executive Director of Sprout MN, recently completed training for administration and interpretation of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Executive Director Cheryal Hills, along with Regional Development Planners Dawn Espe and Staci Headley received their IDI certification. Hills, Espe and Headley will facilitate training in the five-county region, based on a generous grant from the Blandin Foundation and Northwest Area Foundation. The funds will be used for implementation of 'The Good Life...for All' Intercultural Development Training and Coaching initiative in rural Minnesota.

R5DC is currently seeking 10 communities in the five-county region to deliver IDI coaching and facilitate training. These sessions will assist communities in advancing their 'The Good Life...for All' goals that seek to attract a qualified workforce, create social cohesion and improve livelihoods for all people in our region. "All people" refers to everyone – including millennials, military veterans, previously incarcerated people, and people affected by mental illness, along with diverse nationalities.

Hills believes this is critical to the success of the region and says, "As the baby boomers keep retiring, employers are finding it more difficult to fill open positions. Becoming a region that welcomes people from all walks of life will be key in attracting a qualified workforce". Elected officials of our townships, cities and counties have leadership roles that alongside the private and non-profit sectors can dramatically enhance our competitive advantage in the national "race for talent" qualified workforce attraction efforts.

If your local municipality is interested in learning more about how your community can participate in this initiative, please contact Dawn Espe at 218-892-3233 or via email at [despe@regionfive.org](mailto:despe@regionfive.org).

For more information on the Intercultural Development Inventory, please visit:  
<https://idiinventory.com/products/the-intercultural-development-inventory-idi/>

#### **About Region Five Development Commission**

Enhancing the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties is the mission of Region Five Development Commission. Resiliency, inclusion and collaboration are guiding concepts in achieving mutually shared goals that continue to evolve with local municipalities, state, federal agencies, philanthropic, non-profit and social advocacy agencies. Visit [www.regionfive.org](http://www.regionfive.org) to learn more.

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