

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

September 17, 2008

Dr. Arlen Leholm, Executive Director  
North Central Regional Association  
University of Wisconsin  
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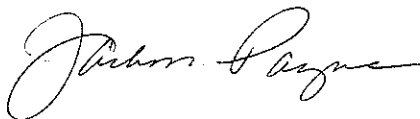
Dear Arlen:

Iowa State University Extension fully endorses and supports the development of a NC Development Committee. The mission of this committee is to address immigration impacts and opportunities in Midwestern communities. Immigration significantly affects our constituents and communities across both rural and urban areas. The issue has been significant for many years but more recently has accelerated in scope and awareness. The North Central region communities are best served by establishing positive steps to facilitate ultimate assimilation of new populations into their area. These pro-active approaches recognize the stresses and constraints that can forestall harmony and the fullness of economic gains to be realized.

Many communities have aging populations and minimal entrepreneurial/economic growth. New vibrant populations tend to be younger; motivated toward work, family and community. If communities are interested in maintaining quality of life then economic growth is vital. Workers and entrepreneurs are needed to bring that local economy to life.

The NC Development Committee will provide direction, direct resources and provide "feet on the street" for integrating and fostering multidisciplinary research and outreach. For example regional studies will determine the best ways to build communities of practice among Extension professionals and professionals operating with other change-oriented organizations. New entrants are not being ignored today and work is ongoing. The Committee would seek to bring research based direction and to better integrate professionals who might gain synergies through coordination. The primary goal of the committee is: To serve as a catalyst for building community social and cultural capital; foster fuller civic participation; move communities along toward greater harmony and understanding among residents. The right time is right now.

Sincerely,



Jack Payne  
Vice President for Extension and Outreach