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UWM’s state refugee education conference focuses on rebuilding refugee lives

MILWAUKEE—Recognizing that global migration is increasing and continues to bring challenges and opportunities, the 2nd Annual State Refugee Education Conference sponsored by the Center for Urban Community Development, of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, shares promising practices, provides timely updates on refugee resettlement efforts, reinforces capacities of existing refugee-serving agencies, and works to impact advancement of refugee resettlement and integration efforts. The daylong event is on Fri., Oct. 15, at the UWM School of Continuing Education, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 7000.

This conference serves as a venue for community-based agencies, service providers, educators, and policy makers to expand their knowledge-base in the refugee resettlement, learn together and chart a new strategic direction for the future.

Four broad themes are emphasized: education, integration, advocacy and community partnerships with three workshops and presentations by outstanding presenters on refugees and the education system, refugee workforce development, and refugee social and community support services.

The Center for Urban Community Development, UWM, is leading the conference in partnership with the following sponsors: Wisconsin Department of Children & Families, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Minneapolis Public Schools, Maximus W-2, Social Development Commission, African and Asian Refugees Consortium and the Milwaukee Area Refugees Consortium.

According to Jesus Santos, Division Director, Bilingual Multicultural Education, “The Milwaukee Public School district, representing the largest population center in Wisconsin, provides education to a significant number of refugee children. This partnership with UWM-Center for Urban Community Development will prepare us all to better meet the required academic needs of these students.”

Featured speakers are Dr. Michael Burke, president of Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Dr. Linda Rabben, human rights activist and refugee advocate, along with refugee community leaders from the Burmese, Iraqi and Pan African communities.

The conference also features refugee ethnic dances to be performed by members of the Karen and Burmese Community of Wisconsin.

To register by phone: (414) 227-3200 or (800) 222-3623 (Program No. 6220-2010) Online registration: www.sce-refugee.uwm.edu