

The Western Pa chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, AFP-WPA Chapter announces 2012 Diversity Fellows Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT: Jeff Lukacsena
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AFP-WPA Fellows Program Creates Opportunities for Diverse Fundraising Professionals

Pittsburgh, PA – The Association of Fundraising Professionals, Western Pennsylvania Chapter (AFP-WPA) is pleased to announce a call for applicants for its 2012 Diversity Fellows Program. The Diversity Fellows Program is an outreach initiative of AFP-WPA, which extends scholarship opportunities to minority and underrepresented populations for inclusion in the chapter's membership.

AFP-WPA will select two (2) Fellows for 2012, who will receive member benefits at 8% of the cost of a regular membership. Applicants must have substantial responsibility for fundraising in their organization with at least one year of experience. Fellows will receive: admission to monthly chapter programs, a seat at the *2012 National Philanthropy Day*, and attendance at the *AFP Emerging Philanthropy Conference*. Fellows will be recognized in chapter publications and events and will receive valuable training and professional development opportunities through AFP-WPA mentors, programs, and events.

The Diversity Fellows Program is intended to increase awareness of the mutual benefits of diversity and inclusion for chapter members, offer guidance to underrepresented fundraising professionals in achieving their career objectives, and provide mentoring, networking and professional development opportunities to minority fundraising professionals. Jeff Lukacsena, a diversity committee member guiding the selection process, stated, "The need for this program was evident through our review of current membership. It is critical for our organization to have representation across all ethnic and underrepresented backgrounds, and this program will help provide access to these populations."

"As a visually impaired member who travels with a Seeing Eye dog, I appreciate first-hand the opportunities I have been given by the Western PA chapter of AFP. Having worked as a volunteer fundraiser for two nonprofits, AFP has afforded me the professional development and networking opportunities to advance toward my future goal of being a major gift officer for one of the guide dog schools in either the U.S. or Ireland."

For more information about the 2012 Diversity Fellows Program and application information, visit the AFP-WPA website at www.afpwpa.org. Please e-mail and mail a completed application by November 30, 2011 to:

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*AFP of Western Pennsylvania is committed to strengthening the diversity
of our region's philanthropic sector.*

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The mission of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is to enable people and organizations throughout the world to practice effective and ethical fundraising through education, training, mentoring, research, credentialing and advocacy. They are committed to educating and encouraging its members and the nonprofit sector to better serve their respective communities.

Founded in 1960, The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) represents nearly 30,000 members in 213 chapters world-wide. AFP works to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs. AFP fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession. More than 300 local fundraisers are members of the Western Pennsylvania chapter providing an opportunity to network with local colleagues.

Members meet often to build relationships and learn best practices from skilled nonprofit leaders. Educational opportunities include regular meetings, the Annual Education Conference, audio conferences, and review for Certified Fundraising Expert (CFRE) certification. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in fundraising or nonprofit management.

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