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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open Call for Participation in the Vibrant Index Diagnostic: Elevate DEI Practices to Shape Pittsburgh's Future

PITTSBURGH (February 18, 2024) - Vibrant Pittsburgh, in partnership with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, launched the much-anticipated fifth edition of the Vibrant Index diagnostic on Monday. Closing on March 1, this critical initiative stands as a pivotal opportunity for all organizations across the 10-county region to drive progress in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practices.

Building on the success of previous editions, including the participation of 120 organizations in 2023, this year's call to action is stronger than ever. Participation in the Vibrant Index Diagnostic is instrumental in shaping a more inclusive and vibrant Pittsburgh. It's a chance to benchmark and advance internal DEI practices that will directly influence the region's trajectory.

The transformative impact of active involvement is evident in the elevation of organizations that attained the prestigious Vibrant Champion designation in 2023. Eleven organizations, including Ansys, CCAC, Dick's Sporting Goods, Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation, Peoples Gas, The Pittsburgh Promise, PNC, Schell Games, UPMC, the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, and YWCA, exemplified excellence by scoring at or above 95 percent across each of the nine pillar areas assessed, setting a commendable standard for DEI practices in the region.

Sabrina Saunders Mosby, president and CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh, emphasized, "What gets measured, gets accomplished. Building on the success of previous editions, this year's call to action is more urgent than ever. Committing to DEI initiatives, executing, and measuring their impact are pivotal steps in advancing equity. The Vibrant Index is the region's premier, annual tool for evaluating efforts, identifying growth opportunities, and outlining necessary actions. Increased participation is pivotal for us to drive substantial recommendations and effect change across our region."

"The Allegheny Conference couldn't be prouder to be in partnership with Vibrant Pittsburgh around the critical work it's leading to improve outcomes in the region," said Allegheny

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Conference CEO Stefani Pashman. “Equity in employment – alongside business growth and community wealth – is at the heart of the Conference’s Inclusive Growth Principles, and the Vibrant Index is a one-of-its-kind tool for assessing equity, especially around expanding access to employment opportunities and increasing belonging in workplaces. The Index is essential because the data it collects, analyzes and presents allow us to see, year over year, where progress is being made or where efforts must be accelerated. It’s also a means for recognizing the companies and organizations in our region that have demonstrated a commitment to making employment opportunities and their workplaces truly for all.”

The diagnostic evaluates nine crucial pillars encompassing written commitment, leadership, talent engagement, community engagement, and more. Participation remains free and voluntary, ensuring strict adherence to robust security and privacy protocols. Following the Diagnostic period, organizations will receive comprehensive reports comparing their scores with size cohorts, industry, and sample averages and a consultation session with an expert from Vibrant Pittsburgh.

Organizations scoring at or above 95 percent across each of the nine pillar areas assessed are deemed a Vibrant Champion, displaying an exemplary commitment to DEI. Previous Vibrant Champions stand as beacons of progress and change within the region.

To contribute to Pittsburgh's evolution and join the upcoming iteration of the Index, organizations should visit vibrantpittsburgh.org/vi5 for complete details, frequently asked questions, and to access the diagnostic.

About Vibrant Pittsburgh

Vibrant Pittsburgh is a premier economic development membership organization dedicated to supporting the growth and economic competitiveness of Pittsburgh as the region’s central resource, spokesperson, and convener on workforce diversity and inclusion, Vibrant Pittsburgh works with area employers to position the region and their companies as inclusive and welcoming places for people of all backgrounds.

About the Allegheny Conference on Community Development

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development is one of the United States’ foremost civic leadership organizations. For more than 75 years, the Conference has been bringing together public and private sector leaders. Through the support of its Regional Investors Council, the Conference is improving the economic future and quality of life of the 10-county Pittsburgh region.

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