**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**NWILED ANNOUNCES FIRST DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EVENT**

HANOVER, IL – Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) will host a Spanish-Language Small Business Outreach event at the DeSoto House Hotel on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. NWILED welcomes individuals and businesses from the Spanish community of Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties to attend and learn how to start, expand, and relocate a business. Established community leaders will be onsite to serve as translators.

The sharing of resources will be the primary focus of the open house event. There is no set presentation or program. Attendees are free to come at their leisure to meet NWILED staff, schedule a free private Spanish-language business consultation, pick up a Spanish-language business packet, and enjoy a free breakfast. Bilingual inclusion staff from Dupaco Community Credit Union will also be at the event.

NWILED is committed to building an inclusive, varied business community that welcomes people from all backgrounds. Of the reasoning for having the event, NWILED Executive Director Emily Legel stated, “Immigrants often have an entrepreneurial spirit and are nearly twice as likely to start a business as native-born residents. We want to give a voice to our local Spanish community and provide them the resources they need to grow their businesses.”

NWILED intends to have similar events throughout 2022.

For more information about NWILED visit www.NWILED.org.