



Iowa Department of Human Rights

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Division of Community Action Agencies | Division of Community Advocacy and Services | Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Offices of

Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs | Deaf Services | Latino Affairs | Native American Affairs | Persons with Disabilities | Status of African Americans | Status of Women

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Community Leader and Organizer to Join Department of Human Rights *Latino Affairs Office Serves Fastest-Growing Minority Community*

DES MOINES – Iowa Department of Human Rights Director San Wong today announced Alba Perez will join the department as Executive Officer for the Office of Latino Affairs. Perez has a strong record of working with underrepresented Iowans as Diversity Development Director for the Greater Des Moines Partnership. In her new role, Perez will pivot her focus to Latinos all across Iowa.

“Alba is well-known and respected in the Des Moines area as an organizer, community leader and advocate for diverse Iowans. Her new challenge is to take that passion to a statewide level, lending a voice to Iowa’s growing Latino population and breaking down barriers to their success,” Wong said.

Perez set forth her vision for the Latino Affairs Office during a community conversation in November. Perez will strive to become the connector between the Latino community, state government, and state agencies, communicating Latino issues, needs and concerns. Latinos are Iowa’s largest minority community, and the community is rapidly expanding. An immigrant herself, Perez knows the importance of education, a strong workforce and community involvement.

“It is a time of great challenges and opportunities, and I am hopeful that Latinos and Iowans alike will support the focused efforts of this office,” said Perez. “I am honored for the opportunity to work for the Iowa Department of Human Rights and Director San Wong.”

Martha Willits, President/CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, said, “This is a well-deserved appointment. For the past 11 years the Partnership and the greater Des Moines region has greatly benefitted from Alba’s leadership. We are pleased that she will be able to share her expertise and passion with the entire state and look forward to working with her in her new role.”

Perez will take over the Latino Affairs Office on January 30, 2012.

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