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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR ADVISOR KATHLEEN MARTINEZ
TO SPEAK ON DRIVING DIVERSITY AS A VEHICLE FOR SUCCESS**



October 7, 2011 (Cedar Rapids, IA)... As a part of the Diversity Focus' **SHIFT* Speaker Series: Driving Diversity as a Vehicle for Success, Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy**, will speak on Monday, Oct. 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Boulevard SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52404.

In honor of National Disability Employment Awareness month, Diversity Focus, in conjunction with Rockwell Collins, is hosting Kathleen Martinez to speak on how employers can profit by investing in workers with disabilities. She will discuss valuable policy updates and key considerations in developing human resources disability policies. Martinez brings a powerful message about the necessity of employing people with disabilities to strengthen our national talent base and to broaden our understanding of diversity in the workplace.

Martinez was nominated by President Barack Obama to be the third Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 25, 2009. As head of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Martinez advises the Secretary of Labor and works with all Department of Labor agencies to lead a comprehensive and coordinated national policy regarding the employment of people with disabilities.

Blind since birth, Martinez has an extensive background as an internationally recognized disability rights leader specializing in employment, asset building, independent living, international development, diversity and gender issues.

"We are proud to work with Rockwell Collins in expanding business and community understanding of disability awareness in the workplace as part of a diversity strategy" says Chad Simmons, interim executive director of Diversity Focus.

This event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center and includes lunch. Cost to attend is \$20; or free if you register for SHIFT* speaker Grace Odums on November 3. Reservations are required and may be made online at www.diversityfocus.org/shift

Diversity Focus was established in 2005 as a nonprofit organization devoted to enhancing the diversity of the Cedar Rapids - Iowa City Corridor. For more information about Diversity Focus or the **SHIFT* Speaker Series: Driving Diversity as a Vehicle for Success**, please visit www.diversityfocus.org.

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