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Background information:
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Quad County Urban League Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony

AURORA, ILLINOIS — Quad County Urban League President & CEO Theodia

Gillespie announced today that a groundbreaking ceremony to launch the start of construction on the League's 23,200 square foot Vocational and Educational Training Center at 1667 N. Farnsworth will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

The Vocational and Educational Training Center, the first of its kind in Kane, Kendall, DuPage and Will Counties, will house the Aurora Middle School Academy, all existing League programs, and expanded services for vocational training. Training opportunities will be designed to meet the needs of the local economy – including a focus on the trades.

“As an organization, QCUL is challenged to educate community members so that they are qualified for career opportunities that will provide a comfortable standard of living. Our community deserves nothing less,” said Gillespie. “With the support of our funders, partners and membership, we are committed to moving the Quad County Urban League to an entirely new level of effectiveness and greater impact for the communities we serve,” she added.

The Center will also offer increased space for GED instruction, space for employer training programs, computer labs for youth and adults, and meeting rooms for community activities.

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Cordogan, Clark and Associates, Inc. will oversee all aspects of the construction of the Center. The first four phases of construction are expected to be completed by late Summer of 2007. The final phases are scheduled to begin in early Fall of 2007 and be completed by Spring of 2008. The total estimated cost of the project is \$5 million.

Fundraising Honorary Co-Chairs, Aurora Mayor Thomas J. Weisner, and Kane County Board Chairman, Karen McConnaughay, will participate in the ceremony. Other local government officials, union representatives, and corporate leaders are expected to be present. Media interested in covering the event should contact Danata Donnerson at 630-851-2203.

The Quad County Urban League was founded in 1975 by a diverse group of local leaders responding to the absence of a community-based organization to address the need for academic achievement, job placement and training, equal access to employment, housing and cultural enrichment for low-income, displaced citizens.

The Urban League sets policies and directions that are implemented by a highly trained professional staff and a network of hardworking concerned volunteers who work on problems and pursue opportunities in the fields of economic development and employment, education and youth incentives, housing, community planning and health and welfare. The mission of the Urban League is to help secure equal opportunities for all disadvantaged persons and people of color, including African Americans, women and disabled persons.

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