



## Adirondack Diversity Initiative

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Adirondack Diversity Initiative Seeks Director**

*ANCA welcomes applicants for new position, based in Saranac Lake*

**SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.** — The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), on behalf of the Adirondack Diversity Initiative, is now welcoming applicants for the Initiative’s Diversity Director position. The new director will join ANCA’s staff at the regional nonprofit’s Saranac Lake office.

Established in 2015, the Adirondack Diversity Initiative (ADI) is a volunteer-run collaboration of organizations and individuals who develop and promote strategies to help the Adirondack Park become more welcoming and inclusive to all New Yorkers, including visitors, seasonal residents and permanent residents. The job announcement comes on the heels of the New York State Budget decision in May that awarded \$250,000 for the ADI as part of the \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund. The new grant funding allows ANCA to hire a director and expand the Initiative’s outreach and programming.

“ANCA is honored to be home for ADI’s first diversity director,” said ANCA Executive Director Kate Fish. “The person who fills this role must be a strong collaborator and communicator and will bring skills and experience to fostering inclusion.

“The ADI team is grateful that New York State leaders are supporting this position and the initiative, as well as the critical work ADI is doing to build and promote an Adirondack region that is welcoming to all.” Fish added, “Ultimately, our economic and cultural prosperity depends on the diversity of our communities. Businesses and residents benefit in multiple ways — from main streets and public spaces to schools, hospitals and independent businesses. We all benefit when we welcome new people and fresh energy into the region.”

Fish said ADI is grateful to Sen. Jose M. Serrano, D-Bronx, who chairs the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, for his leadership in securing the funding for the initiative. She also thanked Environmental Conservation Committee Chairs Assemblyman Steven Englebright, D-Setauket, and Sen. Todd Kaminsky, D-Long Beach, as well as Sen. Elizabeth O’C. Little, R-Queensbury, Assemblymen William Jones, D-Chateaugay, and Daniel Stec, R-Queensbury, for their support. She also recognized the legislative and executive staff who understand the need to build a welcoming inclusive Adirondack Park.

“The Adirondack Park and the communities that help it thrive are a crown jewel of New York’s natural beauty, history and recreational offerings,” said Senator Serrano. “The Adirondack Diversity Initiative’s vision for a more inclusive Adirondack Park is essential for celebrating these attributes and building places that are prosperous,

resilient and welcoming to new constituencies that are eager to expand their horizons and experience all that the region has to offer. I'm happy to support ADI's efforts and look forward to working with them to promote a region that attracts visitors and economic growth, while serving the people who have lived and worked here for generations."

Laura DiBetta, director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Outdoor Recreation program, said, "The Adirondack Diversity Initiative's efforts to promote the park's inclusivity and the diversity of its visitors align with DEC's goal to get more New Yorkers outside to experience nature. By developing regional networks and support systems for communities and businesses, ADI will help the Adirondacks become a more inclusive place for residents and visitors alike."

"This is just the boost ADI needs to build on recent progress made and further improve the Adirondacks as a place known for welcoming people of different backgrounds, ages, cultures, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and perspectives," said Adirondack Council Executive Director Willie Janeway. "This will transform this all-volunteer effort into something more permanent and effective. We are pleased that the funds for the initiative will come from the NYS DEC administered Environmental Justice category of the Environmental Protection Fund, and we applaud Senator Serrano, the Legislature and Governor Cuomo for their leadership and support of this important initiative."

The population in the Adirondacks is predominantly white and older than other regions, a demographic imbalance which poses economic and social challenges for the region. As communities strive to attract and retain families and businesses, they have recognized a need for strategies that help businesses and organizations become more inclusive of people from all backgrounds.

The diversity director will work closely with ADI partners to advance the Initiative's goals, which are driven by two guiding principles: that the Adirondack region should be welcoming and inclusive to everyone and that the region should be relevant to and supported by an increasingly diverse state and national population.

ANCA requests that applications for the position are submitted by August 23, 2019. A complete job description can be found on the ANCA website at [www.adirondack.org/job-opportunities](http://www.adirondack.org/job-opportunities).

More information about the Adirondack Diversity Initiative, partners and advisory board is available at [www.diverseadks.org](http://www.diverseadks.org). Questions about the Diversity Director position can be directed to ANCA Regional Advocacy Coordinator Jacob Vennie-Vollrath at (518) 891-6200 or [jvennie-vollrath@adirondack.org](mailto:jvennie-vollrath@adirondack.org).

Established in 2015 as a volunteer-run coalition and now based at ANCA's office in Saranac Lake, the [Adirondack Diversity Initiative](#) is a collaboration of regional partners who are working to develop and promote strategies to help the Adirondack Park become more welcoming and inclusive to visitors and residents. [ANCA](#) is an independent nonprofit organization growing the New Economy in northern New York with a focus on creating opportunity for people with diverse backgrounds, experience and education levels.

**Attached: One (1) PDF document**

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