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CONTACT:

Paula Schriefer, President & CEO, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning

Office: (303) 863-0188, x301, Cell: (202) 361-6509, pschriefer@springinstitute.org

Amanda Bent, Communications, Outreach, & Advocacy Manager, abent@springinstitute.org

**SPRING INSTITUTE LUNCHEON EVENT WILL CELEBRATE IMMIGRANT
AND REFUGEE INCLUSION IN COLORADO**

AWARDS WILL HONOR PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHENING HEALTH EQUITY

DENVER, COLORADO--Spring Institute's annual fundraiser and luncheon is a celebration of our vibrantly diverse community that embraces immigrants and refugees and the collaborative partnerships promoting health equity during the public health crisis and beyond.

What: The theme of the [eighth annual Spring Intercultural Champion Awards](#) ceremony is *Promoting Equity In Healthcare Access*. Spring Intercultural Champion Awards will be presented to a state legislator, a healthcare organization, and a professional medical interpreter who have championed a more equitable healthcare system for immigrants and refugees.

Who: With Emcee **Kate Perdoni of Rocky Mountain PBS**, keynote remarks by **Dr. Dwinita Mosby Tyler of The Equity Project**, a musical performance by **Koffi Togo Vibe**, and a **committee of 16 state legislators** serving as honorary hosts, Spring Institute will present Spring Intercultural Champion awards to:

- **Representative Naquetta Ricks** (HD40) was prime sponsor of HB22-1050 (International Medical Graduate Integrate Healthcare Workforce), legislation to ease barriers for internationally-trained doctors seeking medical licensure in Colorado. She is the first African immigrant to be elected to the Colorado General Assembly and the first Liberian American to be elected to any state legislature. At only 13 years old, she was forced to flee civil war in Liberia and her family settled in Aurora, Colorado
- **Denver Health** was founded as a city hospital in 1860 and provides hospital and emergency care to the public, regardless of ability to pay. This integration promotes continuity of care for each patient and assures health care that is delivered in the most efficient, cost-effective setting.
- **Ms. Malalai "Molly" Mommandi** has been a Dari, Farsi, and Pashto interpreter for The Interpreter Network by Spring Institute for 20 years. Since last fall alone, she has provided 800+ hours of interpretation services as Colorado welcomed more than 2,500 newcomers fleeing Afghanistan.

Event sponsors include The Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Trust, The Kempe Foundation, and Denver Economic Development and Opportunity.

When: Thursday, September 29, 2022, Noon - 2:00 MST

Where: City Park Pavilion, 2001 Steele St, Denver, CO 80205. Please note that GPS navigation may not be reliable within the park and [this map](#) provides better guidance on accessing the Pavilion.

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Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. To find out more, visit our website at <https://www.springinstitute.org/> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).