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## For Immediate Release

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### **Macomb County Diversity & Inclusion Collaborative formed**

More than 50 individuals representing 27 organizations met on the campus of Macomb Community College April 12 to officially launch the new Macomb County Diversity & Inclusion Collaborative.

The mission of the new organization is to create an environment where all individuals and groups live, work and recreate harmoniously with all others and participate fully, equally and equitably in all institutions and aspects of Macomb County life. Work will be accomplished through five committees which have been formed to address specific concerns. The committees are: access to resources, business and economic development, education, police and community, and services for refugees.

“Macomb County is taking positive steps to embrace the contributions of all our residents and develop ways to help new Americans feel welcomed and valued,” said Deputy County Executive and OneMacomb Chair Pam Lavers. “I am impressed by the creative and achievable objectives set forth by our committees.”

The collaborative is the result of a year-long planning grant awarded to Macomb County’s OneMacomb initiative from the “Gateways for Growth Challenge.” Macomb was one of only 20 communities across the nation to receive assistance through [Welcoming America](#) and [New American Economy](#) (NAE) to develop and implement a multi-sector strategic plan for welcoming and helping new Americans integrate into their homes.

The grant enabled the county to hire [The Leadership Group](#) to gather data and public opinion and then guide members of a steering committee as they developed a strategic plan for making Macomb County more inclusive. Based on an assumption that community groups can achieve more if they work together, the official collaborative – complete with a nine-page operating agreement – was formed. To date, 28 organizations have officially joined the collaborative and are developing action plans through one of the five established committees.

Aside from the official formation of the new collaborative, a highlight of the meeting was [the results of a study](#) compiled by NAE detailing the impact of immigrant populations on Macomb County's overall economy.

To learn more about the collaborative, visit [WeAreOneMacomb.org](http://WeAreOneMacomb.org) or follow OneMacomb on Facebook or Twitter.

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