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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## "COMBINING FORCES<sup>(x)</sup>": REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE FORUM ON WORKPLACE INCLUSION'S 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Leading Workplace DEI Convention Returns In-Person to Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—February 7, 2023—The last in-person Forum on Workplace Inclusion® conference ended just 24 hours before Minnesota declared a peacetime emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, after two years online, it's back.

The nation's premier workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion conference returns to Minneapolis for its 35th anniversary, with a parallel virtual option for global audiences and those who can't attend in person. "Combining Forces<sub>(x)</sub>: Fueling Our Collective Capacity for Change" will take place March 27-29, 2023, at the Hilton Minneapolis. Registration is open now, including discounted group rates and team meeting packages, at forumworkplaceinclusion.org/2023-conference.

"What happens in society affects the workplace, and what happens in the workplace affects society," said Steven Humerickhouse, executive director of The Forum. "Emerging from the pandemic and racial trauma of the past several years, more leaders and organizations than ever have discovered the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion to their employees, to society, and to their bottom lines."

Drawing more than 1,000 participants in past years, The Forum's annual conference is designed to meet people where they are in their DEI development, from beginners to advanced practitioners. Attendees include leaders and managers of diverse workforces; HR and talent acquisition, management, and development practitioners; DEI practitioners; organizational development/effectiveness leaders; and students, teachers, researchers, and scholars.

This year's conference will open with a 35th anniversary celebration with musical performances at Orchestra Hall. The event will feature Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation President and

CEO Eric Jolly in conversation with MPR President Duchesne Drew, Minnesota Orchestra CEO Michelle Miller Burns, and Augsburg University President Paul Pribbenow.

More than 90 breakout sessions over three days will tackle topics like religious literacy and inclusion, mitigating organizational biases, why many DEI practitioners are fighting fatigue, and using data to amplify anti-racist practices at work. Other highlights include off-site immersive learning experiences around the Twin Cities, collaborative cross-industry "think tanks" facilitated by innovation expert Ramon Vullings, and popular DEI coaching sessions.

"All of us who lead organizations dedicated to equity and inclusion have benefited from The Forum's outstanding programming—both at this annual conference and in its innovative ongoing efforts to offer the best thinking and strategies for living out our DEI commitments," said Augsburg University's Paul Pribbenow. This conference marks the Forum's fourth year in residence at Augsburg.

# About The Forum

For 35 years, The Forum on Workplace Inclusion has served as a convening hub for those seeking to grow professional leadership and effectiveness skills in the field of DEI by engaging people, advancing ideas, and igniting change. It is hosted at Augsburg University located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The annual conference is HRCI and SHRM Continuing Education Credit (CEU) eligible. For rates, registration, and full conference information, visit forumworkplaceinclusion.org/2023-conference.

### **About Augsburg**

Augsburg University offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and 11 graduate degrees to approximately 3,200 students of diverse backgrounds at its campus in the vibrant center of the Twin Cities and nearby Rochester, Minnesota, location. Augsburg educates students to be informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders. An Augsburg education is defined by excellence in the liberal arts and professional studies, guided by the faith and values of the Lutheran church, and shaped by its urban and global settings. To learn more, visit Augsburg.edu/about.

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