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AIU Hires New Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion **Mr. Michael Jones will be the first in the newly created position.**

Homestead – March 1, 2021 – The Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) is pleased to announce that Mr. Michael Jones has been hired as the organization’s new director of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). In his capacity as a member of the AIU’s Executive Leadership Team, Mr. Jones will design and implement organization-wide DEI efforts and help shape a healthy and inclusive culture where everyone can grow and thrive. He will also serve school districts and deliver DEI learning opportunities to educators in Allegheny County.

The new executive-level position is part of the AIU’s larger effort to provide leadership in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion. The AIU’s Board of Directors unanimously approved Mr. Jones’ appointment at its February 22 meeting. He is scheduled to begin on March 22.

A committed agent of change, Mr. Jones currently works as a senior associate within the Campus and Emerging Talent programs at BNY Mellon, performing recruiting and diversity management activities. Outside of his professional duties, Mr. Jones has served as the Pittsburgh regional co-chair of IMPACT, an employee resource group for promoting the advancement of multi-ethnic/racial employees within the region. Mr. Jones previously held positions in higher education in both enrollment management and career development. He holds a bachelor’s degree in music therapy from Seton Hill University and a master’s degree in social work from California University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Robert Scherrer, executive director, said that Mr. Jones brings to the organization a deep understanding of diversity challenges and will serve as a thought leader and influencer as educators in the region work toward establishing equitable and inclusive learning environments where all students can succeed.

“As a public education organization, the AIU must be able to assist school districts and organizations in our region as we work together to overcome overt and systemic forms of racism and discrimination. I believe that the creation of this new position will allow us to provide leadership and support in this area,” he said.

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ABOUT THE AIU

An educational service agency, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) is part of Pennsylvania’s public education system and serves schools, children, youth and families in suburban Allegheny County. Among the largest of the state’s 29 intermediate units, the AIU employs about 1,200 individuals and has an annual budget exceeding \$150 million.