

July 1, 2011

The IECA Foundation announces the appointment of Darchelle M. Garner as its first Director.

Garner has over 20 years of experience in non-profit management, including 5 years as Vice President of The CHEST Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American College of Chest Physicians. At The CHEST Foundation she worked on programs designed to promote general respiratory health and tobacco prevention among children and teens. She served for 11 years as Vice President, Education and Community Services and Director of Community Services at Chicago Children's Museum. Previously, she was a Rothchild Fellow at the United Way of Chicago.

In a letter to the Foundation, Garner expressed an interest in "advancing the work of a socially significant and impactful organization. I believe the IECA Foundation is such an organization." She states, "I am committed to ensuring the development of our world's youth by providing educational and economic opportunities which they might otherwise not have."

Garner is a Brown graduate with an MBA in marketing and non profit management from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. Her volunteer life has included involvement with and management of: Youth Job Center, a homeless shelter, International House of Blues Foundation, Illinois Action for Children, Washington Latin Public Charter School, Them bani International Guarantee Fund in South Africa, Shared Interest and CARE.

Garner began her duties on July 1. As the position is part time, she also works as a consultant to non-profit organizations and is based in Silver Spring, Maryland.

According to Steve Antonoff, Chair of the IECA Foundation, "We are fortunate to be working along side of Darchelle as the IECA Foundation seeks to expand its reach. Darchelle has created award-winning, innovative educational programing that empowered traditionally underserved children through educational and economic opportunities."

"Through the interview process, Darchelle impressed me with her analytical skills, with her ability to be both a visionary as well as a doer, with her commitment to community service, and with her likeability and good spirit," Antonoff stated.

One of her primary responsibilities with the IECA Foundation is in the area of fundraising and Garner has worked with funders such as W.K.Kellogg Foundation, Joyce Foundation and Eli Lilly.

Michael Spence, Foundation Board member and Chair of the Search Committee, made the following statement about the new Director, "Darchelle excited us all in her written and spoken contact with us. She is a proven strategist, manager, fund

raiser and we trust you will be as excited as we are when you have the opportunity to meet her.”

According to Antonoff, hiring a Director is a major step for the Foundation. “We’ve been fairly small and content in our successes. But we want to do more and to make more of a difference in the life of the Association and the profession of independent educational consulting. Most importantly, we want to make more of a difference in the lives of young people who suffer from lack of educational opportunity, lack of support, and lack of optimism about their future.”