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Kids Forward Communication and Development Manager Wenona Wolf Receives “40 Under 40” Award

MADISON, WI – The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) recently recognized Kids Forward Communication and Development Manager, Wenona Wolf, as one of their 2017 Native American “40 under 40” award recipients. This prestigious award is bestowed upon individuals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated leadership and initiative, and made significant contributions to their community. On September 6, Wolf was honored at the Northwest Enterprise Development Conference in Tulalip, WA for her advocacy work on behalf of the Native American community.

Kids Forward Executive Director, Ken Taylor, provided the following remarks, “The Kids Forward staff and community are thrilled to congratulate Wenona for receiving this national award. Our workplace and our community have significantly benefited from Wenona’s insightful and determined voice. And as an organization that is committed to racial equity, we are lucky to have such a fierce advocate for Wisconsin’s indigenous communities informing our work.”

Wolf grew up on the St. Croix Chippewa Reservation in northwest Wisconsin and is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. In addition, to being the communication and development manager for Kids Forward and its Race to Equity Project, Wolf serves as the board President for Community Shares of Wisconsin and is on the board of directors for the Bayview Foundation, We Are Healers, and the Wisconsin Women’s Network.

According to the NCAIED website, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. With over 40 years of assisting American Indian Tribes and their enterprises with business and economic development they have evolved into the largest national Indian-specific business organization in the nation.

Wolf will be participating in a panel discussion at the 2017 YWCA Madison Racial Justice Summit entitled, **“You Say You Honor Us, But Why Not Include Us? A Discussion with Three Native American Women on How to be Effective Allies and Partners to Native Communities.”** The breakout session will focus on the lack of inclusion and representation of Native American women in our society, despite their leadership in recent movements for justice and equity throughout the United States. In addition, Wolf and her co-panelists will share their experiences with exclusion and racism in their fields and offer

guidance on how to be an effective ally and partner. The YWCA Madison Racial Justice Summit will take place on October 3 and 4, 2017 in Madison.

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Kids Forward, formerly the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, advocates for effective, long-lasting solutions that break down barriers to success for children and families in Wisconsin. Using research and a community-informed approach, Kids Forward works to help every kid, every family, and every community thrive.