



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20511**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**DNI Emphasizes Need for Work Force Diversity**

Work force diversity is an issue that is so important to the mission of the Intelligence Community that Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell identified it as the top "core initiative" of his 500 Day Plan to further reform the IC. In addition, he and other leaders of IC agencies are required in their individual performance plans to demonstrate support for equal employment opportunity and diversity.

"The Community's ability to address complex global threats depends on a work force that has a wide range of ethnicities, experiences, languages, and perspectives," the Director said. "Diversity is a team effort, and we need the full participation and collaboration of each IC member if the Community is to reach its greatest potential."

The DNI emphasized that message this week, speaking to several hundred senior leaders at the National Security Agency. It was the first of what will be a series of talks that he and Dr. Donald M. Kerr – the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence – will give to focus a spotlight on diversity and other major initiatives of the 500 Day Plan.

The IC's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity has led the development and implementation of a Community-wide strategy in this area – seeking innovative ways to attract, hire, and retain people from a variety of backgrounds. The Office also continues to work with groups across the IC to foster an environment that embraces diversity.

The 500 Day Plan is available online at [www.dni.gov](http://www.dni.gov).

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