

Iowa West hires Tulipana as CEO

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The Iowa West Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the Midwest, announced Thursday that it has hired Peter Tulipana of Omaha as its new president and CEO. He will begin his duties on March 8.

Tulipana is the US Region Chief Operating Officer for the Columban Fathers, a nonprofit headquartered in Bellevue, Neb. The former president and CEO of Heartland Family Service in Omaha, Tulipana also has offered consulting services to enhance organizational capacity for area nonprofits during the past eight years.

Headquartered in Council Bluffs, the Iowa West Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$280 million to charities and public entities in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska since the foundation's grant program was begun in 1996.

"The national search brought us a great candidate from right here in our own backyard," said Chuck Smith, chairman of the foundation's board of directors. "We are excited to bring Pete's expertise to the organization," Smith added.

Smith said the nationwide search for the foundation's CEO drew more than 150 applicants. In addition to applicants from Iowa and Nebraska, there were applicants from 22 other states, he said.

"We had a good pool of applicants to examine," Smith said. "Pete rose to the top and was the unanimous choice of the board."

"I know well that Iowa West is more than just a grantmaking foundation," Tulipana said. "It is a catalyst for initiatives which improve the quality of life in the region."

While at Heartland Family Service, Tulipana played a key role in the establishment of the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus in Council Bluffs. Heartland Family Service was one of five nonprofit agencies that are located on the \$33 million campus. The Lakin

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family contributed \$12 million for the project, Iowa West provided start-up funding of \$10 million and the rest was raised locally.

Smith said Tulipana's experience with Heartland Family Service spanned 23 years, during which he saw the organization's annual budget grow from \$1.5 million to \$20 million.

"He knows and understands the area, and his background has largely been with nonprofits," said Mayor Tom Hanafan. "It's (the Iowa West Foundation) a local board made up of local people, and he understands the area. He'll make a good choice."

Prior to settling in Omaha, Tulipana had experience with HFS in Beloit (Wis.), the Rehabilitation Center of Central Louisiana, and St. John's Children Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. In addition he has been a college professor of not-for-profit administration, most recently

at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He also published "Board-Staff Relations and Perceived Effectiveness in Non-Profit Organization" in the Journal of Voluntary Action.

IWF grant funding mainly comes from the foundation's investment income. However, a separate organization called the Iowa West Racing Association periodically distributes funding to the foundation. That funding comes from the fee income that the Iowa West Racing Association receives from sponsoring the licenses for Ameristar and Harrah's.

Tulipana will fill the role of executive director of the IWRA.

"During the recession, the additional income from the association was critical to keep the foundation's philanthropic grant making at a steady level," explained Deb Bass, IWRA president. "We believe Pete's management skills will be valuable to the entire Iowa West organization and the community," she said.

Tulipana replaces Todd Graham, who was the Iowa West CEO for eight years. He announced his return to his hometown of Richmond, Va., last July 20 to head the Robins Foundation.

Jerry Mathiasen, Iowa West's senior vice president, has been serving as the acting CEO as the board searched for Graham's replacement.