



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Progress Strategies+ announces new diversity and inclusion client:
Local First of West Michigan**

Eric K. Foster, Principal and President of *Progress Strategies+* and leader of its Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Project Group is proud to announce that Local First of West Michigan has retained *Progress Strategies+* for comprehensive cultural competency, diversity, inclusion and equity training and organizational change work. Local First of West Michigan is an innovative non-profit organization dedicated to the mission of supporting locally owned businesses.

Representing over 800 member businesses throughout West Michigan, Local First is the largest organization supporting and advocating for businesses in the Midwest. They are committed to becoming a more inclusive organization in all aspects of their organization, staff, leadership, programs and events in order to fulfill their mission of West Michigan becoming a national leader of an equitable economy driven by diverse local ownership.

Progress Strategies+ and its award-winning Diversity, Inclusion and Equity group are excited to coordinate and deliver the Local First E3 (Equity, Environments of Inclusion, and Engagement) with Diverse Communities program. The Local First E3 is a deep and comprehensive training and organizational development initiative focused on providing education and equipping tools to staff and stakeholders in cultural competencies, inclusion, diversity, equity, and cultural development.

“As a social entrepreneur who founded *Progress Strategies+* to create and deliver market-based project solutions to our most pressing social and economic problems, I am excited to work with Local First. I look forward to providing them cultural competency, diversity, inclusion and equity client services to help them become a leader in advocating for locally owned businesses as a means to eliminate conditions of exclusion,” stated Eric Foster.

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