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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
IOWA PUBLIC RADIO NAMES TWO FINALISTS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Two veterans of public broadcasting have been named finalists for the position of executive director of the newly created Iowa Public Radio. They are Cindy Browne, a Minnesota-based public broadcasting consultant and former executive vice president for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and John Stark, general manager of KNAU-FM, the public radio station at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Iowa Public Radio is a new structure established by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to consolidate the public radio stations at Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa into a statewide network. The executive director is a new position that will oversee operations of the stations and report to the newly created Iowa Public Radio executive council, a five-member board that includes one representative from each of the three state universities as well as two Iowans appointed by the Board of Regents.

Browne will visit the ISU and UNI campuses on Thursday, July 21, and the UI campus on Friday, July 22. Stark will visit ISU and UNI on Monday, July 25, and the UI on Tuesday, July 26. During their visits, the candidates will meet with radio station employees, university leaders, and with members of the radio stations advisory groups and the public. Locations and times of the public meetings will be announced later.

"We are extremely pleased to have recruited two finalists of the caliber of Cindy Browne and John Stark for this important position," said Art Neu, a Carroll lawyer who is chair of the IPR executive council. "Both have solid experience in public broadcasting; both are enthusiastic about the opportunities and challenges of being the executive director of this new organization; and, most importantly, both articulated an exciting vision for the future of Iowa Public Radio."

Since 2000, Browne has been president of Leader Evolution LLC, a consulting practice focused on supporting public broadcasters and other nonprofits. Her clients include Houston PBS and Houston Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, Public Radio Capital, Michigan Public Media, Wisconsin Public Television, and Twin Cities Public Television. She has made presentations at numerous national public broadcasting conferences.

She was executive vice president of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting from 1998 to 1999, where she served on the three-person executive management team. Prior to CPB, she worked for Twin Cities Public Television, serving as vice president for programming (1989-94) and then as vice president and general manager (1994-98).

Browne has a bachelor's degree in history and an MBA in finance, both from the University of Minnesota.

Stark has been general manager of KNAU-FM Arizona Public Radio, a six-station network, since 1993. He is currently a member of the National Public Radio board of directors and in 2000 was named Manager of the Year by the Public Radio Development and Marketing Conference.

Stark has also worked for radio stations in Fresno, Calif.; Boulder and Denver, Colo.; and from 1985 to 1993 he was assistant general manager and program director for KNPR-FM Nevada Public Radio in Las Vegas. He also worked from 1982 to 1984 as associate producer for NPR's "Morning Edition" program in Washington, D.C.

He has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Colorado in Boulder, participated in the Executive Management Institute at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, and earned a certificate in employee relations law from Northern Arizona University.

Iowa Public Radio includes WSUI-AM and KSUI-FM at the University of Iowa, WOI AM and FM at Iowa State University, and KUNI-FM and KHKE-FM at the University of Northern Iowa. The operations have combined revenues of about \$6 million annually and about 60 employees.

In addition to Neu, a former Iowa lieutenant governor and past Board of Regents member, members of the IPR executive council are Kay Runge, director of the Des Moines Public Library; Steve Carignan, director of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, UNI; Warren Madden, vice president for business and finance, ISU; and Steve Parrott, UI director of University Relations.

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