FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CINDY BROWNE APPOINTED IOWA PUBLIC RADIO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cindy Browne, a Minnesota-based public broadcasting consultant and former executive vice president for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, has been appointed executive director of Iowa Public Radio, effective Sept. 1.

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 Iowa Public Radio executive council, which appointed Browne to the new position during a telephonic meeting Monday, Aug. 8.

Browne will be paid an annual salary of $120,000.

"We are excited that Cindy Browne has agreed to be the first executive director of Iowa Public Radio," said Art Neu, a Carroll lawyer who is chair of the IPR executive council. "We are confident that she has the experience, the talent and the creativity to successfully achieve the goals of expanding the reach of our public radio stations, especially to western and southern Iowa, and to maintain the historic relationships between the stations and our three state universities."

"It’s an honor to be chosen for this position," Browne said. "It’s a tremendous challenge and opportunity. I’m really eager to begin the process of meeting with the staff of all the radio stations, with stakeholders at each university, with listeners and supporters of the stations, and with Iowans around the state to learn more about their visions of what Iowa Public Radio can and should be."

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.

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. The five-member Iowa Public Radio executive council includes one representative from each of the three state universities as well as two Iowans appointed by the Board of Regents.

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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