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**National conference on aging and disabilities to take place in Des Moines this May**

**Des Moines, Iowa (March 22, 2016)** – The National Association of States United on Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), together with the Iowa Department on Aging and the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council, will hold the Governor’s Conference on Aging & Disabilities at the Iowa Events Center on May 23-26, 2016. This event will showcase innovative research, technology and best practices being implemented throughout Iowa and around the country to enhance the quality of life for older adults and adults with disabilities.

“The Governor’s Conference on Aging & Disabilities provides a unique venue for the peer-to-peer, agency-to-agency and state-to-state exchange of information and promising ideas with regard to ensuring older Americans and adults with disabilities are empowered to meet their goals for long-term independence,” said NASUAD Executive Director Martha Roherty.

“In bringing together professionals, policymakers, researchers, students and advocates for aging and disabilities, we hope to re-imagine what it means to age or live with a disability in America and create momentum for revolutionary thinking and positive change,” she added.

Out-of-the-box thinking and organizational paradigm shifts will be the topic of the address by plenary speaker Terry Rich, CEO of the Iowa Lottery, while the benefits of innovative research to vulnerable populations will be discussed by plenary speaker Paul Glassman, DDS, MA, MBA, Director of the Pacific Center for Special Care and Director of Community Oral Health for the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific. Mike Nardone, director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, will share his experiences with helping states improve systems of care for individuals with multiple chronic conditions, and Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds will speak about advancing the quality of life in Iowa through bold initiatives and innovative thinking.

In addition, the conference will include three pre-conference intensives on Elder Law, Employment and Oral Health; 50 educational presentations and panel discussions from nationally recognized speakers and agencies that focus on the latest research, projects and best practices in the aging and disability communities; a variety of unique networking opportunities; and an Exhibit Hall featuring state-of-the-art products and technologies.

NASUAD will simultaneously present both its annual Spring Meeting and the Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Symposium in Des Moines that week to further focus national attention on Iowa and the remarkable work happening throughout the state in the fields of aging and disabilities.

“We are thrilled to partner with NASUAD on this event to attract a wider audience to Iowa and shine a regional and national spotlight on the innovative advances individuals and organizations are making to re-imagine America’s aging and disability networks,” said Iowa Department on Aging Director Donna Harvey. “We hope it will spark a national dialogue about quality of life and care issues and inspire people in every industry to think about how they can better engage with older adults and adults with disabilities.”

More information about the conference and online registration is available at [www.iowaGCOAD.org](http://www.iowaGCOAD.org).

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*The Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) is an executive branch agency dedicated to making Iowa the premier state in which to live and retire. To meet that goal, the IDA works closely with the Iowa Commission on Aging and Iowa's six Agencies on Aging to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that helps individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities. More information is available at [www.iowaaging.gov](http://www.iowaaging.gov).*