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**PROGRESS STRATEGIES+ HIRED BY WEST MICHIGAN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS FORUM TO ADVANCE SOCIAL EQUITY & CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**EAST LANSING, Mich., July 7, 2017** –At the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum's (WMSBF) June 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting with 130 members in attendance, *Progress Strategies+* announced that it has been retained by WMSBF to merge diversity and inclusion, and corporate social responsibility standards of social equity in their sustainability programs and policies. WMSBF's Equitable Sustainability Project is to ensure that the forum is impactful on social issues relevant to the business and sustainability sectors as they are on environmental issues.

Eric Foster, Principal of *Progress Strategies+* will be leading the project management, diversity, inclusion and equity and corporate social responsibility client services to WMSBF. WMSBF will benefit from *Progress Strategies+* award-winning practices in inclusion and equity training, development of inclusion policies and corporate social responsibility projects to ensure that the forum is advancing sustainable practices of social inclusion and economic opportunity with diverse and marginalized communities in West Michigan.

WMSBF is recognized as one of the region's premiere environmental organizations. A network of businesses, government, academia, and non-profits, it has a greater participation than any such initiative in the Midwest with 220 organization practitioners of beyond-compliance sustainability.

In his comments outlining the six phases of project services to WMSBF, Foster stated that *"It is a pleasure to serve the forum as our new client. I look forward to assisting them in being an organization of choice by all groups---from the most historically excluded to the marginalized----- who can be confident that their social and economic equity needs are on equal standing with the environment---needs that can be met through the values of sustainability by allies such as WMSBF."* Foster was awarded Sustainability Champion by Grand Valley State University's Office of Sustainability Practices for his work in social justice, economic empowerment and environmental stewardship.

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**Strategies.** Not advice.

**Project Management**

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**Diversity and Inclusion | Corporate Social Responsibility | Public Policy and Advocacy**

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