



## **Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.**

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*Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 16, 2017**

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### **ECDC Congratulates USCRI on the Appointment of Eskinder Negash as Acting Chief Executive Officer**

**Arlington, VA**— Following the announcement that Eskinder Negash has been named the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, President of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc., released the following statement:

“ECDC congratulates USCRI on the appointment of Eskinder Negash as Acting CEO. The appointment of Negash is historic because it is the first time that USCRI will be led by a former refugee from Africa.

“USCRI, including its predecessor the American Council for Nationalities Service, has been serving the uprooted, including refugees, immigrants, unaccompanied migrating children, and survivors of human trafficking. The organization has done exemplary work by uniting families and protecting children, rebuilding livelihoods, and empowering survivors.

“Negash brings over 35 years of executive experience serving refugees and immigrants. As a teenager, he traveled alone to the Sudan, where he worked finding homes for other refugees. Once in the U.S., he worked as a case manager at a local refugee resettlement agency, graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, and went on to serve as Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the International Institute of Los Angeles for 15 years. From 2002 to 2009, he was the Chief Operating Officer of USCRI, and between 2009 and 2015, he served as the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement under the Obama administration. Negash is a testament to the resilience and high achievement of former refugees in America, and we look forward to supporting his work and leadership at USCRI.

“ECDC is also thankful for the many years of leadership and service of retiring President and CEO, Lavinia Limón. She will be missed, and we wish her the best.”

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*ECDC is one of nine resettlement agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.*