The ILC Holds Statewide Conference on Immigrant Entrepreneurship

Immigrant Entrepreneurs Spur Economic Growth, Create Jobs

The ILC, in collaboration with Babson College, hosted an inaugural conference on immigrant entrepreneurship on November 17, 2010. An audience of nearly 100 state and local policy makers and community economic developers learned about the contributions of Massachusetts immigrant entrepreneurs. Coming from all corners of the globe, they start businesses from neighborhood storefronts to science and technology firms.

Twenty immigrant entrepreneurs and researchers presented extensive documentation showing how immigrant entrepreneurs bring billions of dollars worth of education and training as well as their talent, energy, risk taking and indomitable spirit that benefit the Commonwealth and the nation. Presenters included Dr. Jan Vilcek, New York University professor and co-developer of the breakthrough drug Remicade, Alison Moronta, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation and Richard Herman, co-author of Immigrant, Inc.

“Their contributions open new pathways for conducting business in the global marketplace that will bring critical wealth creation and jobs to Massachusetts and the country,” said Dr. Marcia Drew Hohn, ILC Director of Public Education and conference organizer.

The main message from the conference is that immigrant entrepreneurs provide a unique advantage for the state by bringing neighborhood revitalization, innovation in high tech and health science, and international business know-how. This competitive advantage needs to be protected, nurtured and enhanced by all stakeholders in the economy, not just government.

Go to www.ilctr.org to view a summary of conference proceedings.
Dear Friends,

Every session I visit each class to meet all the students. I was interviewed recently by students in one class for a project they were doing. They asked how the school was funded. I explained that over 80 percent of the revenue comes from individuals, businesses and foundations. They also asked me how I get people to support the school if so many Americans believe immigrants are bad for the country. First, I told them that not all Americans think immigrants are bad for the country.

Second, anti-immigrant sentiment is nothing new in American history; only the victims have changed. At one time it was the Irish, Italians, Greeks, Asians, Slavs, Catholics and Jews. Today it's Mexicans and Muslims. The rhetoric has always been the same.

• Immigrants are criminals and terrorists.
• They bring diseases into the country.
• They either take our jobs or live on welfare.
• They don't pay taxes.

Research shows this is not true. History is filled with the contributions from each immigrant group that make life better for each of us, that make the United States stronger. Immigrants are dreamers and risk takers. The list of great American immigrant scientists, engineers, writers, scholars, business and labor leaders, athletes, actors and artists is legion.

Third, I tell our students' personal stories. There's the woman from Iran who had to leave her husband and family with the clothes on her back because she was picked up by the police for being part of a government protest movement. There's the gentleman from Haiti who was shot in front of his wife and children as he came home from work. Today he owns a restaurant in Cambridge. There are 6,300 stories like these. I see former students everywhere I go. They are business owners, professionals, health workers, care givers, security personnel and garage attendants.

Just like my parents, many of our students experienced and witnessed unspeakable horrors, heard anti-immigrant comments and worked very hard to create a good life for their children. Seventy percent of our students achieve their goals of finding jobs, starting businesses, entering training programs, going to college and becoming citizens. Their children are on the honor roll, win awards and go to college. And just like my parents, they love this country for what it represents: security, hope and freedom.

Lastly, I told the students that I ask potential donors to imagine this nation without immigrants.

• The next time you are in a hospital, look around at who is taking care of the patients.
• Over half of all medical scientists in the state are immigrants.
• 28 percent of doctors are immigrants.
• Immigrants take care of our children and our parents.
• 40 percent of the pharmacists in Massachusetts are immigrants.
• An immigrant founded Google; remember that the next time you go online.

In the present economic climate, The ILC continues to work very hard teaching immigrants English and educating the public that immigrants are assets not deficits.

Thank you for supporting The ILC's work. Best wishes for a healthy, happy, peaceful 2011.

Diane

The ILC is a not-for-profit learning center that provides free English classes for adult immigrants and refugees. The mission is to give immigrants and refugees enough knowledge of English to pursue educational, employment and personal goals and become successful workers, parents and community members. The ILC also educates the public about the positive impact immigrants have on our country, economy and communities.
FOCUS ON FUNDERS

Eagle Bank

Christine Falzarano, Vice President and Community Development Officer for Eagle Bank in Everett, MA, presented Diane Portnoy with a check for $500 for continued support of ILC programs during her visit to the school in November.

Tony Abell, Golf Tours Director

Tony Abell has been a longtime supporter of The ILC. He has known ILC teacher Susan Haley since college. When Susan started The ILC Family Literacy Program in 1996, Tony thought it was an intriguing concept and soon began to support the program and Susan’s work. He has played in the Annual Golf Classic twice, once winning with Susan. He was so impressed with the school’s work that he became an ESOL volunteer himself at his church, Our Lady of Lourdes, in Bethesda, Maryland. Tony believes in the mission of the school and knows first hand how much students benefit from dedicated teachers like Susan Haley in whose honor he makes his contributions. Thanks to his long friendship with Susan and Diane’s inspiration, Tony is one of The ILC’s most loyal fans.

Verizon

ILC Board Member Stan Usovicz, Regional Director of External Affairs for Verizon, presented the school with a check for $10,000 for continued support of The ILC’s Technology Program.

From left: Carmen Nistor, ILC Technology Director; Diane Portnoy, Stan Usovicz and Cathy Nandhavan, ILC Computer Lab Director

Tony Abell, Golf Tours Director

Travel Place Bethesda

David McKay, Ernst & Young LLP

David McKay, partner at Ernst & Young LLP, believes the firm’s long involvement with The ILC “was almost destined to happen.” Ernst & Young is committed to engaging with organizations that promote diversity, inclusiveness and education so their support “dovetails seamlessly” with The ILC’s mission. While recognizing that there are a number of people at Ernst & Young who have worked with him to support and serve The ILC, David says that playing a small personal part in helping immigrants has been “a joy.” “Thank you, ILC, for giving us the opportunity to assist you in achieving your goals now and in the future.”

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The ILC is deeply grateful to the law firm of Sullivan & Worcester LLP for its generous donation of office and classroom furniture. The staff and students appreciate how the furniture makes the school look very attractive and inviting.
SCHOOL NEWS

- ILC teacher Karen Oakley “encourages staff to read and add to” the new ILC blog. This is the perfect venue to ask a question or raise a new topic and exchange ideas. The blog can be used for staff development and advice.

- Former ILC student Iman Vasques from Algeria has done so well in the Year Up Program that she was invited to attend the gubernatorial debates where she met the candidates. Later she shook President Obama’s hand.

- The Literacy Program, known as the One-Room School House, has expanded. As of November, intermediate Literacy students meet with Susan Rojas in her classroom on the first floor while very beginning and higher level Literacy students meet with Kathleen Klose in the One-Room School House on the second floor. This change has allowed 13 more students to enter the program bringing the total of Literacy students to 66.

Rise Up Singin’

Music, poetry and memories made the August performances of The Immigrant Theater Group’s (ITG) production of Rise Up Singin’ irresistible. The production was directed by Kathleen Klose, ITG founder and instructor, and performed at the Malden Senior Center. Audiences came away with tears in their eyes and profound respect for the determination and optimism displayed by the cast.

The song Summertime embodied the theme of overcoming adversity. Accompanied by student musicians playing piano, flute and guitar, three performers shared their stories: a family torn apart in Vietnam, a Haitian student attacked in Florida and a family removed from their land in the Philippines.

At the close of each performance, the student actors stepped forward to introduce themselves and thank their ILC teachers for the “Gift of Language.”

New Class

ILC instructor Susan Haley, at the suggestion of Diane Portnoy, recently started a new high-level class that focuses on job “navigation.” The class meets once a week and serves waitlisted applicants who are looking for employment. Students tackle resume writing, health care and business issues along with English pronunciation and interview skills. ILC Guidance Counselor Holly Jones (above) recently worked with the class in deciphering want ads.

THE 2011 ILC STAFF

ILC VISITORS

The ILC hosted a luncheon in November for several Friends of The ILC who want to become more involved with the school. The guests toured the school, visited classes and had lunch with ILC students. In the front row from left to right are: Jennifer Clark, Norma Portnoy (ILC staff) and Phebe Goodman. In the back row from left to right are: Priscilla Hundley, Diane Portnoy, ILC students Zahra Haghighatjoo (Iran) and Gulbahar Warap (China), ILC instructor Marcia Spector and Tushara Canekeratne. Gulbahar and Zahra shared their immigrant backgrounds, life in America and their studies at The ILC. More luncheons are planned for 2011.
**Student Tutors**

There are students at The ILC who have risen from Level 1 to Level 5 very rapidly. They enjoy acting as reading tutors for other ILC students. Here are their success stories.

**Dolores Aquero** came from Argentina nine years ago to live with her son and three grandchildren in Everett. She has been a student at The ILC for two years and during that time has become proficient enough in English to be part of Kathleen Klose’s Level 5 Theater class. She remembers how beautiful Buenos Aires is but also how dangerous it has become. She believes it is “very important” to continue studying and takes great pleasure tutoring other students in reading and writing. Dolores is very grateful to be able to take a 35-minute walk to The ILC for class.

**Ali Sert** grew up near Istanbul, Turkey, and came to the U.S. in 2008 after waiting nine years for a green card. He arrived in New York knowing only “computer” English as he had worked in that field at home. Today he delivers pizza for Dominos and occasionally fixes computers and is learning English as fast as he can so he can get another job. He believes The ILC is “really, really good for immigrant people.” Helping other students is important to Ali, and he is glad his proficiency in English allows him to do that.

**Yvonne Moliere** came from Haiti in 2008. Her sister told her about “a good school in Malden” and so she came to The ILC. In Haiti, Yvonne taught French and worked as a stenographer in the Haitian Parliament for six years. At The ILC she moved to Level 5 quickly and enjoys helping other students. She is especially proud of her daughter, Yoan, who speaks four languages and won a gold medal in a Spanish exam. Yoan wants to go to college to become a nurse anesthesiologist. Yvonne says she will “never stop thanking all the teachers” at The ILC.

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**Reading Recommendations**

For your information the following titles provide important background reading on the very controversial issue of immigration in the United States today:

- *A Nation of Immigrants* by John F. Kennedy
- *American Passage: A History of Ellis Island* by Vincent J. Cannato
- *Let Them In: The Case for Open Borders* by Jason Riley
- *Empire of Wealth: The Epic History of American Economic Power* by John Steele Gordon

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*From left: Yvonne Moliere, Ali Sert and Dolores Aquero*
SPECIAL EVENTS

ILC Autumn Celebration


SAVE THE DATE

For The ILC’s
13th Annual Golf Classic
Monday, June 6, 2011
Kernwood Country Club
Salem, Massachusetts
Promoting Literacy

On November 12, Susan Rojas and Jean Smith’s Family Literacy classes held Family Literacy Day as a way to “promote literacy at an early age” by giving parents a chance to read to their children. Family Literacy Day, one of six held each year, is also a party. Tables are covered with drawing paper; there are crayons and, of course, there is pizza. Children and parents can enjoy each other and the pleasure of reading together.

The ILC In the News

As part of a month-long series on immigration, WBZ Radio reporter Mary Blake interviewed Zahra Haghiaghjoo from Iran. Zahra, a former university professor and presently a student in Marcia Spector’s class, talked about the relief of finally feeling safe “compared to where I am from.”

WWW.ILCTR.ORG

The ILC website continues to grow. Be sure to visit often for updated information on immigrant issues and new research releases as well as current events happening at the school.

Congratulations New Citizens!

- Saddiq Noor Abdulnabi, Afghanistan
- Maria Torodova, Brazil
- Donka Petkova Kurteva, Bulgaria
- Yin Yin Htwe, Burma
- Weilun Guo, China
- Li Fen Luo, China
- Eveillard Cazeau, Haiti
- Jeanette Cazeau, Haiti
- Michel Ange Dascelin, Haiti
- Donald Joseph, Haiti
- Marie Lucienne Joseph, Haiti
- Varinder Singh, India
- Fatima Alla, Morocco
- Fatima Benmenni, Morocco
- Fatima El Kouram, Morocco
- Mohammed Khallouki, Morocco
- Mehar Afshan, Pakistan
- Aurel Tiba, Romania
- Olga Tiba, Romania
- Liliya Chunyayeva, Russia
- Eduard Kogan, Russia
- Raissa Mounits, Russia
- Yury Raevskiy, Russia
- Vira Aleksandrova, Ukraine
- Ha Chung, Vietnam

The ILC students Theresa Confident (on left) and Jeanne Alceus are very happy first-time voters. Both women are from Haiti.
It is with our deepest thanks that we recognize the following individuals, community groups, corporations and foundations that made financial and in-kind contributions to The ILC between July 26, 2010 and January 24, 2011.

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Anthony F. Abell  Mr. and Mrs. Charles Badgett  Dr. Susan L. Cahill and Honorable Frank J. Bailey  Mr. and Mrs. Victor N. Baltera  Ms. Arlene L. Beck  Ms. Judith Bennett  Mr. and Mrs. David Blackman  Jamilla and Stuart Bornstein  Sandra and Ethan Bornstein  Daniel R. Bridges  Albert R. Broude, in memory of Joseph Broude  Mr. and Mrs. Krishan Canekeratne  Mr. and Mrs. Leon M. Cangiano, Jr.  Ms. Rosa Cappuccio  Gary J. Christenson  Jennifer and Bill Clark  Mr. and Mrs. Oliver D. Curname  Ms. Jane Willis and Mr. Richard A. Davey Jr.  Ms. Pamela DeGroot  Mr. and Mrs. Kevin S. Delbridge  Timothy W. DeLesso  Petar Y. Dimitrov  Imelda and Patrick Donelan  Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Doyle Jr.  Ms. Yolanda M. Fatuma  Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Fitzgerald  Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Fournier  Mr. and Mrs. John Fraiche  Aleda M. Freeman  Friends of The ILC  Dr. and Mrs. Bruce M. Gans  Penny and Richard Garver  Nghi Geich  Ms. Pauline Greigore  Susan and Michael Haley  Maureen and John Harrington  Lynne and David Hegarty  Neil C. Higgins  Donna and John Hindelong  Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hobbie  Marcia D. Hohn  Miriam and David Horton  Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Hughes  Reno R. James  Mrs. Lynne Kinder  Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Kleigfes  Elza Koin  Vaia I. and Arthur G. Koumantzelis  Sergiy Kurylo  Mr. Vern D. Larkin  Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lawless  Michelle and David Lepore  Shari and Michael Linskey  Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey R. Lynch  Joanie and Bruce Mackey  Carmel Shields and John Mannix  Mr. and Mrs. Gerard M. Martin  Mrs. Maria McDermott  Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Meehan  Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Michelman  Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller  Mr. and Mrs. Owen Nichols  Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Nickas  Alexander A. Notopoulos  Thomas M. O’Brien  Mr. and Mrs. Richard O’Keefe  Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Payne  Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Philopoulos  Michele and John Popeo  Diane and Barry Portnoy  Ms. Norma Portnoy  Mr. and Mrs. Charles Poulos  Ms. Anne T. Pressman  Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Rand  Ms. Gilda J. Resnick  Ms. Johanne Seymour  and Mr. Brian Ruh  Ms. Mary Gaynor  and Mr. John R. Schneider  Mr. Joel Sigel  Ann and Bill Sheehan  Sonia and Jason Silverman  Ms. Kathy G. Smith  Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey P. Somers  Mr. and Mrs. Richard Teller  Ms. Brenda Jovenich  and Dr. Joseph Terlato  Ms. Reena I. Thadhani  Mr. and Mrs. Nick Thakore  Ms. Sakina Paige  and Mr. Jamal Thomas  Mr. and Mrs. George T. Thompson  Ms. Jennifer Thompson  Mr. Chris Tgasigan  Mr. and Mrs. Davide D. Visco  Dr. and Mrs. Amon Wachman  Anne and Neil Walsh  Mr. and Mrs. Neil C. Warren  Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wassall  Mr. Randy Welch  Mr. and Mrs. James B. White  Mrs. Dorothy L. Winer  Ms. Beth S. Witte  Mr. Christopher J. Woodard  Ms. Clotilde Zannetos  Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Zubricki, III

COMMUNITY GROUPS, CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS


Special contributions have been made in memory or in honor of the following:

In memory of:

Mildred Berkman  Scott Guittarr  Morris Watkins

Joseph Broude  Faye Laufer

Patricia Galvin Cox  George Norton

In honor of:

Deborah Cicero  Gertrude Cohen  Alan May  Susan Haley  Rose Thompson

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