On Saturday, October 20, 2012, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) celebrated 20 years of “giving immigrants a voice” made possible by the generosity and dedication of its supporters. Two hundred and sixty-two guests from as far away as Seattle celebrated in style at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Guests enjoyed a gourmet meal and danced to music by the Hip Pocket Orchestra.

In reflecting on the more than 7,300 students who have learned English at The ILC over the past 20 years, Diane Portnoy, founder and CEO, said, “The Immigrant Learning Center is a community where people from all over the world with different cultures, religions and skin colors come together to learn English and how to navigate our very complex health, education and economic systems. They also learn there is much more that brings us together than tears us apart.” In closing, she thanked all of The ILC’s supporters saying, “On behalf of myself and all our students, thank you as we celebrate not only The ILC and its students, but also I’d like to thank all immigrants and this United States of America.”

The evening was also an opportunity to celebrate the recently created Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) with George Mason University. The university’s president, Dr. Angel Cabrera, addressed the guests saying, “We are committed. We want to go on this journey with The ILC to remind people that what makes this country great is to continue to keep our doors open to hard working people from around the world.”

Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts
Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts, a new book from The ILC, chronicles the experience of 11 immigrant communities in the U.S. The stories of how they struggled and ultimately became part of the fabric of American life provide an historical context for today’s dialogue on immigration. Guests at the 20th Anniversary Celebration received an advanced copy of the book, which is now available for purchase at Amazon.com.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

November 9 marked 20 years since I opened The Immigrant Learning Center. There have been many changes, yet many things remain the same.

The school opened with three English classes, 60 students and a waiting list of 80. Today, with the help of generous and loyal donors, the school is fully enrolled with 400 students and 700 waiting. A staff of four has grown to 32 staff, 20 board members and 40 volunteers. Class offerings range from pre-literacy to pre-college and include a 25-station computer lab, theater program and family literacy. We have moved from four rooms above a CVS pharmacy to four floors and our name above the door. Initially our students were from Russia, China and Vietnam. Today, the majority are from Haiti, Morocco and El Salvador.

Ten years ago, in response to 9/11, we decided to educate the public about the impact immigrants have on the country and economy. We were told we could not take on such a national issue and have any impact. Ten business sector research studies later with an emphasis on immigrant entrepreneurship, yearly educator forums, numerous articles and presentations, and a research website have transformed the conversation in Massachusetts from immigrants as deficits to immigrants as assets. Our recent partnership with George Mason University in establishing an Institute for Immigration Research and my recently published book, Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts, expand the conversation nationally.

What have not changed are the hopes and dreams of our students. Whether they come here to escape war, find freedom or economic opportunity, America remains a beacon of hope, freedom, opportunity and security. They are courageous, resilient, hard workers and risk takers.

Your support has made it possible for us to help more than 7,300 immigrants from 118 countries learn English so they can find jobs, start businesses, enter training programs, go to college, become citizens and raise families. They are the hope for the future and will keep America strong with your help.

Diane Portnoy

WELCOME NEW CITIZENS

On September 27, 2012, The Immigrant Learning Center sponsored the second annual swearing-in ceremony at the Malden Senior Center. One hundred and six immigrants from 39 countries took the Oath of Allegiance in a court presided over by Judge Robert B. Collings, magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts.

Judge Frank J. Bailey, a member of The ILC Board of Trustees, delivered a welcoming address, and Arthur G. Koumantzelis, ILC board chair, led the new citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance. Malden Mayor Gary Christenson congratulated the new citizens, and Diane Portnoy of The ILC shared her memory of becoming a U.S. citizen when she was nine years old.

Thanks to ILC teacher Jeantilus Gedeus for being the song leader for the event.

Congratulations to 19 Students Who Became New Citizens between June and December 2012

Silvia Chavez Garcia (Mexico), Hong Hai Chen (China), Cherki Chrichem (Morocco), Ernite Chery (Haiti), Loubov Chubukova (Russia), Vincenta Hernandez (El Salvador), Eleonora Kiselyov (Ukraine), Sze Man Leung (Hong Kong), Latifa Mahrachy (Morocco), Monica Morales Escobar (Guatemala), Armenio Mozes (Portugal), Alaba Olalere (Nigeria), Hilda Ramos (El Salvador), Samuel Cesar Ribeiro (Brazil), Sui Tam (China), Mai Thi Tran (Vietnam), Chau Tran (Vietnam), Tin Chee Wong (Hong Kong), Zhan Ping Zhong (China)
Visitors who tour The ILC are always impressed with both the quality of instruction in the classrooms and with the facility. Their tour guide is always quick to point out, “Everything you see here is donated.” That’s because all the furniture, artwork, computers, printers and more have been generously provided by in-kind donors.

In-kind donors also provide services like printing and graphic design. Local businesses help The ILC while promoting themselves by donating prizes for the auction at the annual Golf Tournament. Because these products and services are donated, more of the dollars from financial donors can go directly to helping immigrants and refugees learn English and become productive workers, consumers and entrepreneurs.

If you have a product or service you would like to donate to The ILC, please contact Kathy Smith, The ILC assistant director and director of development, at (781) 322-9777 or ksmith@ilctr.org.

When The ILC held its inaugural golf tournament in 1999, Merrill Corporation generously donated print services for the golf invitations and program books. Today, the company continues to donate print services, which represent a significant in-kind gift to the school. “Merrill Corporation is proud to be a corporate partner with The ILC. The school has a terrific mission that truly changes the lives of ILC students and gives them the language skills they need to create a life of opportunity in America. This, in turn, helps to strengthen our communities, which has always been a priority for our company.”

Mike Linskey, Senior Vice President

Streetwear, Inc. has been the Golf Gift Sponsor for The ILC’s annual Golf Classic since 1999. Gifts have included jackets and vests in different styles and materials, duffel bags and carry-on luggage. Golfers repeatedly comment on the quality and functionality of the gifts and take pride in wearing Streetwear apparel. “The ILC is an extraordinary organization whose impact on the immigrant community has been life-changing. The Golf Classic is a signature fundraising event that draws golfers from across the country and raises significant revenue for ILC programs and services. Streetwear is proud to support The ILC and looks forward to many more years of success on the green.”

Henry Katz, Chairman
Valerie Sandjong – ILC Student

Valerie is about to become a doctor. Ten years ago, she left Cameroon to live in Genoa, Italy, and attend medical school. Valerie, her husband and two young sons came to the U.S. on a lottery visa. She started at The ILC as a Level 5 student to perfect her English. In December 2012, she returned to Italy to finish her medical school exams. She will come back to the U.S. in May to continue her English classes and take her medical board exams.

ILC Theater Production “Lost and Found”

In December 2012, The ILC Theater Program, under the direction of teacher Leora Sapon-Shevin, presented “Lost and Found.” The play illustrated the difficulties non-English speakers encounter in the U.S. Using charades, students enacted the misunderstandings that arise with measurements, weights, words that sound alike but have drastically different meanings, teacher conferences and ordering food.

The actors told the audience that before coming to The ILC, they felt “upside down,” “alone” and “sad.” Now, they understand English and “can even give people directions. We know a good place to learn English.”

Leora Sapon-Shevin – New Theater Teacher

Leora has been attracted to theater since she played Mustard Seed in A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream as a six-year old. During college Leora studied abroad in Chile and returned there after college to work as a volunteer in an all-girls Catholic school teaching English. It was there that she taught theater for the first time and found she had “endless enthusiasm for it.”

Leora spent two years in Chile teaching English at both a language institute and a college. Back in Boston, she found out about The ILC after getting her Masters Degree in Theater Education at Emerson and came to the school to volunteer with Kathleen Klose in The ILC Theater Program. Presently, Leora is teaching The ILC Theater Class and the Senior Conversation class.

Carol Weigert – New Teacher’s Aide

Carol began volunteering at The ILC in January 2012. Three years ago, she and her family moved to Malden from Newton where she had been director of the disability awareness program in the Newton public schools. Carol previously taught music and has a TEFL (Teacher of English as a Foreign Language) certificate from the Boston Language Institute. She also teaches Level 2 ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at Bunker Hill Community College.

Since November 2012, Carol has been a teacher’s aide in The ILC Literacy Class four days a week. She says, “Literacy is very gratifying. People come knowing almost no English. The ILC is like a small family group.”

Badequnzhu – Teaching Intern

The ILC is pleased to welcome Badequnzhu (Bade) from the SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont as an ESOL teaching intern. He is originally from Tibet, and he has a background in teaching and translating/interpreting in his native country. Bade will be teaching intermediate-level students for six weeks in January and February.
PROMOTING IMMIGRANTS AS ASSETS

The Public Education Institute

Here are some highlights of The ILC Public Education Institute's 2012 achievements toward educating the public of the positive impacts of immigrants.

- **Online workshop:** *Teaching Immigration Across the Curriculum* launched as an online, interactive course in July with 25 educators from 14 states participating in real time using webinars, videos and group chat.

- **Model for engaging immigrant businesses:** The ILC’s expertise in immigrant entrepreneurship was tapped for an action research project in Lynn, MA, with MassINC and the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations. The goal was to develop a model for reaching and engaging immigrant-owned storefronts, which are often left out of business networks and services that spur growth.

- **Presentation at the Massachusetts State House:** Marcia Drew Hohn, director of The ILC Public Education Institute, presented an overview of Massachusetts immigrant entrepreneurs to representatives from legislative offices, economic development organizations and immigrant integration groups at the State House on November 15.

The Public Education Institute is proud of its achievements in Massachusetts and looks forward to working with George Mason University as the Institute for Immigration Research develops national-level research. Find more information about immigrants as assets on our Facebook page: www.fb.com/immigrantlearningcenter.

Institute for Immigration Research

To what extent and in what ways are immigrants, especially immigrant entrepreneurs, producing positive economic benefits for the U.S. economy?

The Institute for Immigration Research was established to address this question. This joint venture between The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. and George Mason University was launched in 2012 and has already created some compelling answers to that question.

In December, the Institute released the results of its study of Nobel Prize recipients. It found that in recent years as many as a third of the Nobel Prizes awarded in the U.S. were given to immigrants (see graph).

Upcoming research projects include examining the contribution of immigrants in higher education, and a series called “Immigrants Working for U.S.” will look at specific industries where immigrants play a key role in the production of goods and services for all of us in the U.S. To learn more about the Institute, go to http://iir.gmu.edu.

ILC 2012 STUDENT STATISTICS

From January to December 2012, The ILC served 843 students from 71 countries. The top five countries were: Haiti (291), China and Hong Kong (115), Morocco (99), El Salvador (50) and Brazil (46). The students came from 39 cities and speak 42 languages.
The ILC’s many friends and supporters celebrated 20 years of “giving immigrants a voice” on Saturday, October 20, 2012. It was a joyous event. Thank you to all who were there and those who were there in spirit.
The 14th Annual ILC Golf Classic Brings Good Weather and Good Golf

The ILC’s annual Golf Classic, rained out on June 4, was played on August 27, and it was a beautiful day! One hundred and twelve golfers enjoyed the brilliant sun and cool breezes on Kernwood Country Club’s fine course followed by a traditional clambake. More than $300,000 was netted for ILC programs, raising the total 14-year contribution of the tournament to $2.8 million. The ILC is deeply grateful to the law firm of Sullivan & Worcester LLP and Reit Management & Research LLC, the event sponsors, and all sponsors, friends of The ILC and volunteers for making this signature event one to remember.

Other winners include Bill Clark, Rich Davey, Brian Golden and Bill Sullivan who won 1st Net – Best Ball Division with 56; Charles Nahatis, Closest to the Pin; Matt Casey, Men’s Longest Drive; Kelly Wellborn, Women’s Longest Drive; Jeff Lynch, Senior Longest Drive; and Henry Katz, Putting Contest.

SAVE THE DATES

2013 promises to be a very busy year for The ILC, and we look forward to seeing all our supporters at these special events. Please mark your calendar with the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner</td>
<td>Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>The 15th Annual ILC Golf Classic</td>
<td>Kernwood Country Club, Salem, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>The ILC Autumn Benefit</td>
<td>Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA</td>
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BOARD NEWS

The ILC bids a fond farewell to ILC Board Trustees John R. Schneider (Massachusetts Charter Public School Association), Stanley J. Usovicz, Jr. (Verizon) and Anne L. Williams (Washington Mills Corporation). The school is deeply grateful for their years of service and support and wishes them every success in the future.
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 June 15, 2012, and January 15, 2013.

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Doctor and Maria Alexandrow
Honorable Frank J. Bailey
Deb and Fred Cicero
Susan Haley

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