Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner Announced

Call for nominations to honor outstanding immigrant entrepreneurs in Massachusetts

Malden, Mass, February 3, 2014 / The 2014 Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass., and is presented by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC). This third annual awards dinner honors the significant contributions of the thousands of immigrant entrepreneurs across Massachusetts, and brings special recognition to the nominees and award winners.

An award will be given to one outstanding Massachusetts immigrant business owner in each of four categories: business growth, neighborhood business, life science business and high-tech business. Richard A. Davey, Jr., ILC board trustee and secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, will be the evening's master of ceremonies.

Nominations are being accepted now through March 14, 2014. Self-nominations are welcome. Both the winner and their nominator in each category will be offered a free ticket to the Awards Dinner. Nomination forms as well as sponsorship and ticket information can be found on The Immigrant Learning Center website at http://www.ilctr.org/events.

“Immigrants make huge sacrifices to come to this country where they contribute so much. The ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner recognizes the impact that immigrant entrepreneurs have across the spectrum from a local store owner that supports the neighborhood to the founder of new technology that can impact the whole country. It is guaranteed to be an exciting and moving experience,” said The ILC’s President and CEO, Diane Portnoy.

Last year’s award winners were: Rafael Guzman, owner of RM Technologies, Inc. in Lawrence, for outstanding business growth; Mahmud Jafri, founder of Dover Rug & Home in Natick, for outstanding neighborhood business; and Dr. Chiang Li, founder of Boston Biomedical, Inc. in Cambridge, for outstanding science/technology business.

The Immigrant Entrepreneur Award selection committee will review nominations and select one winner in each category. The selection committee members are:

**Business Growth**
Marcia Hohn, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
David Parker, Merrimack Valley Sandbox
Andre Porter, Massachusetts Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal (Luis), Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation
Janet Strimaitis, Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship, Babson College

**Neighborhood Business**
Juan Carlos Ferrufino, Ferrufino Consulting & Associates
Marcia Hohn, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Alison Moronta, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp.
Theresa Park, Lowell Office of Economic Development
Gustavo Perez Eugui, Accion East
Corrin Williams, Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts

**Life Science Business**
Alison Farquhar, GTL Coaching & Consulting, LLC
Marcia Hohn, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Frank Hoy, Collaborative for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Kevin O'Sullivan, Massachusetts Biomedical Initiative

**High-Tech Business**
Abi Barrow, Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center
Kathleen Hagan, Hagan and Company
Marcia Hohn, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Julianne Zimmerman, Voda Ventures

**About The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.**
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, Mass, is a not-for-profit organization that helps immigrants and refugees become successful workers, parents and community members through direct service programs and public education. Our direct service program provides free, year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston. The ILC further supports immigrants through the Public Education Institute, which informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society.

For more information visit the website [http://www.ilctr.org](http://www.ilctr.org). The ILC can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

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