New American Stories
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We are surrounded by success stories

Every day, we interact with businesses that were founded by immigrants. One way The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. raises awareness of the important contributions of immigrants in Massachusetts is through its annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner. By giving awards to immigrant entrepreneurs for outstanding business growth, neighborhood business, life science business and high-tech business, The ILC honors the impact that all immigrant entrepreneurs have on our lives. Last year's winners are shining examples. Their stories are included below.

The drive for nominations recently began, and it’s exciting to see the nominations coming in. I am reminded of my own mother who started a sweater shop in Revere. If you know any immigrant business owners, please consider nominating them for one of our awards. The deadline for nominations is March 14, 2014.

The Awards Dinner will be held on May 8, 2014, at the Royal Sonesta in Cambridge. It promises to be an inspiring evening. I'd love to see you there. More information about the Awards Dinner is available on The ILC website at www.ilctr.org/events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Diane Portnoy
President and CEO, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Outstanding Business Growth: Rafael Guzman

Rafael, from the Dominican Republic, grew RM Technologies, Inc. in Lawrence from $800,000 in annual revenue in 1997 when he took control of the company to nearly $8 million in 2012 with plans to grow much more. Rafael also gives back by sponsoring community events and establishing a scholarship fund for prospective engineering students.

Outstanding Neighborhood Business: Mahmud Jafri

Mahmud, from Pakistan, founded Dover Rug & Home out of his house in 1989. Today, Dover Rug & Home occupies a 36,000-square-foot space on Route 9 in Natick, and he supports many school programs and charitable organizations in his neighborhood. Mahmud is also the newest member of The ILC Board of Trustees beginning in 2014. His achievements continue to be recognized. In January, he was named one of the 50 Most Influential People in New England by INDIA New England.

Outstanding Science/Technology Business: Dr. Chiang Li

Chiang, from China, has founded five companies and is the named inventor on 230 patents. He founded Boston Biomedical, Inc. in Cambridge in 2006 to develop a clinical-stage product pipeline that targets cancer stem cells. The company was sold to Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma in 2012, and Chiang currently serves as president, CEO and chief medical officer.

About Us

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA, 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 http://www.ilctr.org.