Outstanding Massachusetts entrepreneurs nominated for Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

MALDEN, Mass, March 31, 2014 / Thirty-six immigrants who founded businesses in Massachusetts were nominated for The Immigrant Learning Center’s Third Annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards. They represent outstanding business leaders from across the commonwealth in four business categories: neighborhood, growth, life science and high-tech.

The 2014 winner in each category will be announced at the Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner on May 8, 2014, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass., with master of ceremonies Richard A. Davey, Jr., secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) board trustee. Ticket and sponsorship information is available at http://www.ilctr.org/events.

Nominees in Outstanding Business Growth had at least 20 percent revenue growth between 2010 and 2013. These immigrant entrepreneurs help to energize the economy in Massachusetts and the United States. The nominees for 2014 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year in Business Growth are:

Fitzroy Alexander, Traditional Breads Inc., Lynn from Grenada

Jose De La Rosa, Guardian Healthcare, Jamaica Plain from Dominican Republic

Christine Lin, The Cambridge Institute of International Education, Waltham from China

Charbel Najem, Capstone General Contracting, Worcester from Lebanon

Dmitriy Peregradov, GiftBasketsOverseas.com, Arlington from Russia

Small businesses are the lifeblood of many neighborhoods. They provide needed goods and services as well as specialty items. They also increase local commerce by attracting customers from surrounding communities. The nominees for 2014 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year in Neighborhood Business are:

Denise and Sambath Ban, Simply Khmer Restaurant, Lowell from Cambodia

Victor Barros, Systemize Networks, Stoughton from Cape Verde
Arturo Barroso, Boston Shoe Service, Boston
from Mexico

Edan Barshan, Universal Dental Plan, Boston
from Turkey

Alberto Calvo, Stop & Compare Supermarkets, Chelsea
from Cuba

Javier Diaz, Rincon Caribeno Restaurant, Hyde Park
from Dominican Republic

Jose Antonio Guerrero, Cafe Azteca, Lawrence
from Mexico

Janet Hung and Delia Vildoso, Tiny World Child Care Inc., Brookline
from Peru

Nai Nan Ko, Ko Automotive Group, Wellesley
from Taiwan

Ricardo Miranda, Miranda Auto Body, Springfield
from Uruguay

Phong Nguyen, Yoki Restaurant, Medford
from Vietnam

Mayur Patel, Little Market, Acton
from India

Roger Samkhon Pin and Soben Pin, KhmerPost USA, Lowell
from Cambodia

Nabil and Joseph Sater, The Middle East & ZuZu, Cambridge
from Lebanon

Marc Silva, Somerville Sustainable Cleaning, Cambridge
from Brazil

Sabrina Tan and Chin Lee, Malaysian Flavours, Pittsfield
from Malaysia

Rosa and Nisaury Tejeda and Victoria Amador, Tremendous Maids LLC, Jamaica Plain
from Dominican Republic

Weidong Wang, Baba Sushi and Chuan Sushi Restaurants, Worcester
from China
According to Immigrant Learning Center research, 26 percent of biotechnology companies in New England have at least one foreign-born founder. These founders not only create jobs, they make significant breakthroughs that impact the health and wellbeing of us all. The nominees for 2014 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year in Life Science are:

Bela Asztalos, PhD, Boston Heart Diagnostics Corporation, Framingham from Hungary

Pravin Chaturvedi, PhD, IndUS Pharmaceuticals, Woburn from India

Davide Marini, PhD, Firefly BioWorks, Inc., Cambridge from Italy

Josef von Rickenbach, PAREXEL International Corp., Waltham from Switzerland

Andrey Zarur, PhD, Greenlight Biosciences, Medford from Mexico

Technological breakthroughs are often made by immigrants. The nominees in the high-tech category have each made remarkable contributions in their fields, and they contribute to Massachusetts’ reputation as a top ecosystem of innovation. The nominees for 2014 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year in High-Tech are:

Vikram Aggarwal, EnergySage, Cambridge from India

Ashifi Gogo, PhD, Sproxil, Inc., Cambridge from Ghana

Bettina Hein, Pixability, Boston from Germany

Fauzia Khan, MD, and Mansoor Khan, ScD, Alere Analytics, Lowell from Pakistan

Lenny Lozinsky, Alliance Marketing Group, LLC, Woburn from Russia

Pedro Santos, OsComp Systems, Somerville from Dominican Republic

Swapnil Shah, FirstFuel Software, Lexington from India

Xavier Xicay, Tuatara Corp., Boston from Venezuela
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 and Facebook page http://www.fb.com/ImmigrantLearningCenter.

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