Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Announced

Call for nominations to honor outstanding immigrant entrepreneurs in Massachusetts

MALDEN, Mass, February 2, 2015 / The fourth annual Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. Presented by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc., these awards are an opportunity to recognize the crucial contributions immigrant entrepreneurs make to Massachusetts’ neighborhoods, economic growth and innovation leadership.

Nominations are being accepted now through March 13, 2015, for outstanding immigrant business founders in four categories: business growth, neighborhood business, life science and high-tech. Self-nominations are encouraged. 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’s website at http://www.ilctr.org/events.

The Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards shine a spotlight on the vast contributions of immigrant entrepreneurs. Immigrants and the children of immigrants founded 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies, and immigrants now start more than a quarter of new businesses in this country. Here in Massachusetts, nearly 60,000 immigrant residents are self-employed. The Immigrant Learning Center is seeking the best of these immigrant entrepreneurs to honor.

Last year’s award winners were: Fitzroy Alexander of Traditional Breads, Inc. in Lynn for business growth; Rosa and Nisaury Tejeda and Victoria Amador of Tremendous Maid LLC in Jamaica Plain for neighborhood business; Dr. Fauzia Khan and Mansoor Khan of Alere Analytics in Lowell for high-tech; and Josef von Rickenbach of PAREXEL International Corp. in Waltham for life science.

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

**Business Growth**
Rafael Guzman, RM Technologies
Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
David Parker, Entrepreneurship for All
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
Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Alison Moronta, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp.
Theresa Park, City of Lawrence
Andrea Ierace, Accion East
Life Science
Lauren Celano, Propel Careers
Alison Farquhar, GTL Coaching & Consulting, LLC
Frank Hoy, Collaborative for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

High-Tech
Abi Barrow, Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center
Kathleen Hagan, Hagan and Company
Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
Julianne Zimmerman, MIT Venture Mentoring Service

About The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA, is a not-for-profit organization that gives immigrants a voice in three ways. The English-language program provides free, year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston to help them become successful workers, parents and community members. The Public Education Institute informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society, and the Institute for Immigration Research, a joint venture with George Mason University, conducts research on the economic contributions of immigrants.

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

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