Start spreading the news. The Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards are back.

You and I both know that immigrants are assets to this country. Sadly, many Americans don't realize all the benefits that immigrants bring, and the anti-immigrant voices seem tireless in their efforts to convince people otherwise.

The Immigrant Learning Center's annual Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards is just one way we have of shining a spotlight on the contributions of immigrants in Massachusetts. Last year, we received 35 nominations, and the Awards were featured in 22 news stories throughout the Commonwealth.

Nominations are now being accepted for this year's awards, which will be presented at the Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Dinner on May 7 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Ticket, nomination and sponsorship information is available on our website at http://www.ilctr.org/events.

I hope you will enjoy reading about last year's award winners below. They are each very impressive, and I look forward to meeting this year's winners.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Diane Portnoy
Founder and CEO
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
2014 Winner, Outstanding Business Growth:
Fitzroy Alexander

Fitzroy Alexander is from Grenada, a Caribbean island just 12 miles wide and 21 miles long. When he came to the U.S., he began working at a bakery and learned the business from the ground up before starting his own business. In 1999, after selling his first business, Fitzroy opened Traditional Breads, Inc., in Lynn, which employs 168 people from 26 countries of origin and experienced 37 percent revenue growth between 2010 and 2013.

Fitzroy credits his employees with his success. He offers them on-site English classes, and has mentored several former employees who went on to start their own businesses.

2014 Winner, Neighborhood Business:
Rosa and Nisaury Tejeda and Victoria Amador

Rosa Tejeda left the Dominican Republic for the U.S. 20 years ago to make a better life for her family. She worked long hours as a maid and sought out every opportunity for advancement. In 2010, after her daughters, Victoria Amador and Nisaury Tejada, graduated from college, the three of them launched Tremendous Maid LLC, which now employs more than 40 people in Greater Boston.

Tremendous Maid was named the 2013 Best House Cleaners by Boston Magazine and awarded Small Business of the Year in the Hyde Jackson Main Street District. They routinely support the neighborhood by sponsoring networking and small business events.

In their own words...

To see video interviews with last year’s winners, go to http://www.ilctr.org/promoting-immigrants/immigrant-entrepreneurship/video-interviews/
2014 Winner, High-Tech: Mansoor and Dr. Fauzia Khan

Husband and wife Mansoor and Dr. Fauzia Khan, from Pakistan, founded Alere Analytics (formerly DiagnosisONE) in 2003, and in 2012, it was purchased by Alere Inc. Masoor Khan currently serves as chief executive officer, and Fauzia Khan is the chief medical officer of this medical informatics company. Alere Analytics provides the health care industry with the world’s largest library of evidence-based medical knowledge, featuring more than 30,000 clinical rules, that seamlessly integrates into existing hospital and laboratory information systems.

2014 Winner, Life Science: Josef von Rickenbach

Josef von Rickenbach came from Switzerland to get an MBA at Harvard University. Shortly after graduating, he founded PAREXEL International in 1982. Since then, he has taken PAREXEL from its pioneering beginnings as one of the first clinical research organizations more than two decades ago to its place as one of the top three public biopharmaceutical services companies. The company’s range of services to the biopharmaceutical industry includes globally integrated clinical development, regulatory affairs consulting, commercialization services and technologies that expedite time-to-market. It has more than 76 locations and 15,100 employees throughout 50 countries. For his vision and leadership, von Rickenbach was awarded by Ernst & Young as the 1997 Entrepreneur of the Year (New England).

About Us

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 at www.ilctr.org or Facebook page ImmigrantLearningCenter.