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*Diane Portnoy*

*Founder and CEO*

## **Thirty-Six outstanding community members nominated for The 2017 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards**

MALDEN, Mass, March 27, 2017 / On May 4, 2017, at The Immigrant Learning Center's sixth annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards, 36 Massachusetts residents from 23 countries who founded businesses in 19 Massachusetts communities will be honored by more than 250 business and community leaders. The nominees represent outstanding business leaders from across the commonwealth in four business categories: growth, neighborhood, high-tech and life science. A committee of experts in each area will review the nominations and select a winner in each category.

The 2017 winners will be announced at The ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass., with special guest speaker Jeff Bussgang, general partner at Flybridge Capital, and Master of Ceremonies Larry O'Toole, founder of Gentle Giant Moving Company and 2016 nominee. Ticket and sponsorship information is available at [www.ilctr.org](http://www.ilctr.org).

### **The 2017 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Award Nominees**

#### **Business Growth**

According to data from the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development, private employers increased their workforce by 6.3 percent from 2013 to 2016. The five nominees in the Business Growth category increased their number of full-time-equivalent employees by 40 to 388 percent during the same time frame. The nominees for The 2017 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Award in Business Growth are:

Jose de la Rosa, Guardian Healthcare in Jamaica Plain  
from Dominican Republic

Vijay Nalamada, Avco Consulting in Worcester  
from India

David Nguyen, US Bedding in Fall River  
from Vietnam

Daniel Perez, DPV Transportation Worldwide in East Boston  
from Colombia

Amir Shiranian, Amelia's Taqueria, Inc. in Boston and Brighton  
from Iran

#### **Neighborhood Business**

Small businesses are the lifeblood of many neighborhoods. They provide needed goods and services, local jobs, and they give back to their communities. The nominees for The 2017 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Award in Neighborhood Business are:

Jitka Borowick, Cleangreen, Inc. in Barnstable  
from Czech Republic

Mario Cruz, Mario's Subs and Salads in Roxbury  
from Guatemala

Yessy Feliz, Tails, Inc. in Jamaica Plain  
from Dominican Republic

Kham Inthirath, Envision Digital Group in Worcester  
from Laos

Rowaid Khudhur, STELA TECH in Worcester  
from Iraq

Josefina Luna, CERO in Boston  
from Dominican Republic

Valentin Maldonado, Continental Construction Group LLC in Lynn  
from Guatemala

Mike Mohamed, Il Forno Restaurant in Acton, Fitchburg and West Boylston  
from Egypt

Monica Ryan, Strawberry Child Care in Watertown  
from Colombia

Harley Silva, Cape Cod Marble & Granite, Inc. in Hyannis  
from Brazil

Myra Vargas, J & P Cleaners in Jamaica Plain and Roslindale  
from Guatemala

## **High-Tech**

The nominees in the high-tech category have each made remarkable contributions in their fields and to the American innovation economy. They are at the cutting edge of technologies as diverse as mobile technology, digital health, ed-tech, cyber security, internet of things (IOT) and clean energy. The nominees for The 2017 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Award in High-Tech are:

Raj Aggarwal, Localytics in Boston  
from Canada

Ahmed Albaiti, Medullan Inc. in Cambridge  
from Tanzania

Sandro Catanzaro, DataXu in Boston  
from Argentina

Joshua Feast, Cogito Corporation in Boston  
from New Zealand

Lingping Gao, NetBrain in Burlington  
from China

Lissy Hu, CarePort Health in Boston  
from China

Minh (Sam) Le, HeliDirect LLC in Malden  
from Vietnam

Jennifer Lum, Adelphic Mobile in Waltham  
from Canada

Bhaskar Panigrahi, Unique Computing, Cambridge Technology, CellExchange, ConnectM Technology Solutions, Ecovent Systems and Cambridge Energy Resources  
from India

Luis Pedroso, Accutronics in Chelmsford  
from Portugal

Anil Shah, MRCC Solutions in Billerica  
from India

Elad Shoushan, Ready4 in Boston  
from Israel

Nagarjuna Venna, BitSight Technologies in Cambridge  
from India

### **Life Science**

Immigrant entrepreneurs are a critical component to Massachusetts' reputation as a leading life science ecosystem. These founders are making significant breakthroughs that impact the health and well-being of us all. The nominees for The 2017 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Award in Life Science are:

Johannes Fruehauf, BioLabs and LabCentral in Cambridge  
from Germany

Michael Koeris, Sample 6 Technologies in Woburn  
from Germany

Alexey Margolin, Allena Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Newton  
from Russia

Salvatore Mascia, CONTINUUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Woburn

from Italy

Bernat Olle, Vedanta Biosciences in Cambridge  
from Spain

Ajikumar Parayil, Manus Bio in Cambridge  
from India

Shahin Pourrahimi, Superconducting Systems in Billerica  
from Iran

**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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