

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2003

Contact: Kathy G. Smith
(781) 322-9777
ksmith@ilctr.org

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE)
GIVES IMMIGRANT LEARNING CENTER
TOP GRADE ON FIVE-YEAR ASSESSMENT

Malden, Mass – A DOE monitoring team highly commended The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) for demonstrating best practices in a number of program and management areas as part of its recent five-year assessment of the Center.

As a government funder of The ILC's English as a Second Language program and community planning initiative, the DOE conducts an assessment of the Center every five years to determine its compliance with DOE program regulations. The Center was evaluated in 10 assessment areas that included curriculum design, student placement and support services, planning and evaluation, administrative and fiscal operations, integration of technology, staff qualifications, and its community planning initiative to establish a continuum of adult basic education programs in Malden.

The DOE monitoring team, comprised of three program specialists, spent three days observing classes, interviewing ILC staff and students, and reviewing ILC program documentation and management records. The Team reported in its findings that The ILC was an exemplary model of best practices. It gave The ILC high marks for its innovative programming; extraordinary vision, dedication and leadership, sound fiscal management and fundraising operations, the expertise, professionalism and diversity of ILC staff, integration of technology; strong public-private partnerships, and the attractiveness of the physical plant.

Founded in 1992, The ILC provides free classes to Massachusetts' foreign-born adults in English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, Family Literacy, Computer Literacy, and Citizenship, GED (high school equivalency), and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam preparation. Since its inception, The ILC has served nearly 3,000 individuals representing 65 countries, living in 58 Greater Boston communities and who speak 40 different languages.

ILC Co-Founder and Director, Diane Portnoy said, "The ILC is pleased to have received such an outstanding evaluation and vote of confidence by the DOE for our work in serving Massachusetts' immigrants and refugees. The DOE has been a committed partner with us in giving foreign-born adults the English proficiency needed to help them achieve their goals and dreams and to become productive workers, parents and community members. We thank the DOE for working shoulder-to-shoulder with The ILC and the Malden community in providing opportunities to Malden residents to continue their education."

###