

MIRA Coalition

Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition

MIRA

PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 10, 2013

CONTACT:
Jeff Gross, MIRA Coalition
jgross@miracoalition.org
[617-350-5480 ext. 228](tel:617-350-5480)
[617-909-5596](tel:617-909-5596) (cell)

Governor Patrick to Honor Foreign Born Business Owners in Massachusetts with the Declaration of Immigrant Entrepreneurship Month

BOSTON, MA – The MIRA Coalition is proud to join with the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, the Office of Access and Opportunities, and The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. in celebrating Governor Deval Patrick's upcoming declaration of Immigrant Entrepreneurship Month 2013 (October 15 to November 15).

First declared by Governor Patrick in 2011, Immigrant Entrepreneurship Month honors the achievements and the contributions of foreign born innovators and business owners to economic growth and job creation in Massachusetts. The Month will be inaugurated on October 15 at Jewish Vocational Services in Boston. Speakers will include Governor Patrick, the Secretaries of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and immigrant business owners from the Dominican Republic, Armenia, and Kenya who have built successful enterprises and brought jobs and economic benefits to their communities and the Commonwealth —Victoria Amador (Tremendous Maids), Suren Masumyan (SurriMassini, Inc.), and Charles Mwangi (Comfort Care Resource Group). Please contact Jeff Gross, Director, New Americans Integration Institute (jgross@miracoalition.org) for more information about this event.

The vision and enterprise of immigrant men and women has long been part of the Commonwealth's success, and the Bay State continues to be a magnet for immigrant entrepreneurs from around the world. Immigrants in Massachusetts start businesses at twice the rate of native-born residents, and furnish energy and creativity that help drive many areas of our economy—from storefront businesses that revitalize downtowns to biotech startups seeking the next cancer cure. In greater Boston alone, immigrants own more than 8,800 small businesses in different industry sectors, representing \$3.7 billion in annual sales and employing 18,500 people, according to the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Thirty-three percent of leisure and hospitality businesses in Massachusetts were founded by immigrants, and immigrant entrepreneurs have founded or co-founded 26 percent of Massachusetts biotech companies that produce \$7.6 billion in annual revenue and employ over 4,000 people, studies from The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. show. Learn more about the power of immigrant enterprise in Massachusetts [here](#).

Under the Patrick administration, the economic contributions and strategic importance of immigrant entrepreneurs for the state's global economy have become a key focus of public policy. The New Americans Agenda, a comprehensive policy platform for immigrant integration created in 2006 by the Governor's executive order, calls on state government to strengthen and expand opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurs and small businesses. MIRA's New Americans Integration Institute, launched in 2011 with the first declaration of Immigrant Entrepreneurship Month, is proud to be a partner with the Commonwealth and nonprofit stakeholders in this important effort. We applaud Governor Patrick for continuing to champion the New Americans Agenda, through Immigrant Entrepreneurship Month 2013 and efforts in the year to come.