



442 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148  
Tel (781) 322-9777 Fax (781) 321-1963

[www.ilctr.org](http://www.ilctr.org)

*Diane Portnoy*  
*President and CEO*

## **The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. celebrates 25 years of giving immigrants a voice.**

### **Founder receives key to the city from Mayor of Malden.**

MALDEN, Mass, October 30, 2017 / On Saturday, October 28, 2017, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) and 224 guests from as far away as Washington, DC, celebrated its 25th anniversary in style at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Guests enjoyed a gourmet meal and danced to music by The Marsels.

In recognition of all the ways the community benefits from its work, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson presented The Immigrant Learning Center Founder and CEO Diane Portnoy with the key to the city saying, “From her moving life story to her tireless efforts to help the nearly 10,000 immigrants and refugees that have passed through the doors of The ILC, the city of Malden could not be more proud of her and all that the Center has accomplished.” This was the second time a key has been presented in the city’s history.

The ILC began operations in 1992 with three staff members offering free English language classes to 60 immigrants and refugees. Today, with a staff of 30, it serves more than 900 immigrants and refugees a year and educates the public about the value that immigrants bring to this country.

In reflecting on the students who have learned English at The ILC over the past 25 years, Portnoy said, “Each life has a ripple effect.” From the parent who learns to communicate with her child’s teacher to the entrepreneur who starts a new business to the new citizen who votes for the first time, each student who passes through the doors of The Immigrant Learning Center leaves better able to pursue their dreams and contribute to our society. Portnoy credited supporters saying, “None of this would have been possible without the unending support of donors, board members, volunteers and, of course, our very talented and dedicated staff.”

### **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.

### **Media Contact:**

Kathy Smith

Assistant Director  
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.  
Phone: (781) 322-9777  
ksmith@ilctr.org

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