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*Diane Portnoy*

*Founder and CEO*

## Massachusetts Immigrant Entrepreneurs of the Year Announced

Immigrants honored for their economic, social and scientific contributions in Massachusetts

MALDEN, Mass, May 9, 2014 / More than 200 people came together last night to celebrate the contributions of immigrant entrepreneurs in Massachusetts personified by 35 nominees and four award winners at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.'s 2014 Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. The nominees in attendance each received citations from their respective legislators, and the four winners also received trophies. All were impressive examples of entrepreneurial spirit.

**Diane Portnoy**, founder and CEO of The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC), set the scene for the Awards Dinner saying, "As entrepreneurs, immigrants revitalize depressed neighborhoods, create new technologies, make life saving discoveries, create jobs, pay taxes and help form the backbone of this country. This is not a new story in American history. Since the founding of this country, immigrants have come here with hope, drive and ingenuity and have become entrepreneurs."

The Master of Ceremonies, **Richard A. Davey, Jr.**, secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and ILC board trustee, described the nominees for this year's awards as "small businesses that are lifting neighborhoods to large businesses that are helping to cure diseases across not only the United States but the world" and stated, "we couldn't be more proud to count you among the residents of Massachusetts."

### **Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year, Neighborhood Business: Rosa and Nisaury Tejada and Victoria Amador, founders of Tremendous Maid LLC in Jamaica Plain, Country of origin: Dominican Republic**

Rosa Tejada left the Dominican Republic for the U.S. 20 years ago to create better opportunities for her children. Her daughters, Victoria Amador and Nisaury Tejada, graduated from Cornell University and Boston College, respectively. In 2010, mother and daughters started Tremendous Maid LLC.

They are focused on business expansion and job creation. The business has grown to more than 40 employees and a burgeoning list of clients. Tremendous Maid was named the 2013 Best House Cleaners by *Boston Magazine* and named Small Business of the Year in the Hyde Jackson Main Street District.

Accepting the award, Victoria Amador gave credit to supporters and employees saying, "You know it's easy to stand here and take all that comes with winning such an award. But the reality is that we have a really big army behind us. We have companies like JPNC [Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp.], Interise, Main Street, Main Street Partners.... We keep pushing and we keep trying to reach the limits and see where we can go with this because this is not about us. This is about what we can become with the people that work with us every day."

**Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year, Business Growth: Fitzroy Alexander, founder of Traditional Breads, Inc. in Lynn, Country of origin: Grenada**

Fitzroy Alexander worked his way from baker to business owner with an emphasis on job creation. His first business, Signature Breads, employed 300 people when he sold it in 1998. In 1999, he founded Traditional Breads, a commercial bakery that currently employs nearly 170 people and experienced 37 percent revenue growth between 2010 and 2013.

Alexander received the 2004 Governor's Inner City Investment Award and was named 2007 Business Person of the Year by the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce. He credits his employees, who come from 26 different countries and are all residents of Lynn, saying, "I am who I am because of my partners. They're not my employees. I work for them, because without them, I am nothing."

**Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year, High-Tech: Dr. Fauzia and Mansoor Khan, founders of Alere Analytics in Lowell, Country of origin: Pakistan**

Husband and wife Mansoor and Fauzia Khan founded Alere Analytics (formerly DiagnosisONE) in 2003. In 2012, it was purchased by Alere Inc. Mansoor 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, the platform ensures improved patient care, fewer errors and better clinical outcomes.

Prior to founding DiagnosisONE, Mansoor Kkan was the founder and CEO of KeyCommerce, and Fauzia Khan was the director of informatics at UMass Memorial Medical Center where she wrote the definitive text on the subspecialty of medical informatics, *Guide to Diagnostic Medicine*. She is one of the first physicians in the United States to receive board certification in the subspecialty of Clinical Informatics from the American Board of Pathology.

**Immigrant Entrepreneur of the Year, Life Science: Josef von Rickenbach, founder of PAREXEL International Corp. in Waltham, Country of origin: Switzerland**

Josef von Rickenbach 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. He has guided PAREXEL through 32 years of technological, market and regulatory changes including its initial public offering, 35 mergers and acquisitions, and portfolio expansion to meet changing client needs.

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 in 50 countries. It has helped to develop 95% of the 200 top-selling biopharmaceuticals on the market. It was ranked fifth on the *Boston Globe's* list of best-performing companies in Massachusetts. For his vision and leadership, von Rickenbach was named Ernst & Young's 1997 New England Entrepreneur of the Year.

“It is truly a great honor to receive this award, which represents all of PAREXEL’s employees who contribute so much to the biopharmaceutical industry, our clients and to those who benefit most, namely patients.”

**PHOTO CAPTION:**

From left to right: Diane Portnoy (founder and CEO of The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.), Marica Hohn (director of The Immigrant Learning Center Public Education Institute), Rosa Tejada (Tremendous Maid LLC), Nisaury Tejada (Tremendous Maid LLC), Fitzroy Alexander (Traditional Breads, Inc.), Josef von Rickenbach (PAREXEL International Corp.) , Victoria Amador (Tremendous Maid LLC), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Alere Analytics) and Rich Davey (secretary and CEO Massachusetts Department of Transportation).

Photo courtesy of Jon Fischer Photography

**About The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.**

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, Mass, is a not-for-profit organization that helps immigrants and refugees become successful workers, parents and community members through direct service programs and public education. Our direct service program provides free, year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston. The ILC further supports immigrants through the Public Education Institute, which informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society. For more information visit the website <http://www.ilctr.org> and Facebook page <http://www.fb.com/ImmigrantLearningCenter>.

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