



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

www.ilctr.org

Diane Portnoy
Founder and CEO

Local entrepreneurs from afar sought for honors.

MALDEN, Mass, January 17, 2018 / The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) seeks outstanding immigrant entrepreneurs to be honored at the seventh annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at the Royal Sonesta Boston in Cambridge, Mass.

The only one of its kind in New England, these awards are a special opportunity for Massachusetts to showcase the entrepreneurial talent of immigrants who are drawn here. These entrepreneurs enhance Massachusetts' neighborhoods, grow the economy and cement the commonwealth's reputation as an innovation hub. The Immigrant Learning Center invites everyone to take a stand for welcoming the best talent in the world by participating in The 2018 ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards.

Jeff Bussgang, general partner and co-founder at Flybridge Capital Partners, commented on the event, "Every year, the community does a terrific job nominating outstanding, well-deserving entrepreneurs for these awards. I am inspired by how supportive and welcoming our innovation ecosystem has become for immigrant entrepreneurs."

Nominations are being accepted now through March 9, 2018, for outstanding immigrant business founders in four categories: business growth, neighborhood business, high-tech business and life science business. Self-nominations are encouraged. Both the winner and their nominator in each category will be offered a free ticket to the Awards Dinner. Nomination forms as well as sponsorship and ticket information can be found on The Immigrant Learning Center's website at <http://www.ilctr.org>.

"These entrepreneurs answer the question, 'Why do we invite people from all these countries to live here?'" said ILC Founder and CEO Diane Portnoy. "The Awards Dinner is a truly, uniquely American experience. Every year, I am inspired by the stories of the nominees and winners from all corners of the world who are making the American Dream their own."

Last year's award winners were: Jose de la Rosa of Guardian Healthcare in Boston for business growth, Josefina Luna of CEROCOOP in Boston for neighborhood business, Sandro Catanzaro of DataXu in Boston for high-tech business and Johannes Fruehauf of BioLabs in Cambridge for life science business.

The ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Award selection committee will review nominations and select one winner in each category. The esteemed selection committee members are:

Business Growth

Debi Kleiman, Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship, Babson College
Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
David Parker, Entrepreneurship for All
Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal, Boston Private Bank

Neighborhood Business

Leandro Freire, Accion East

Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

Theresa Park, City of Lawrence

Saritin Rizzuto, Metro Credit Union

High-Tech Business

Doug Banks, Boston Business Journal

Abi Barrow, Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center

Kathleen Hagan, Hagan and Company

Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

Julianne Zimmerman, Reinventure Capital

Life Science Business

Lauren Celano, Propel Careers

Alison Farquhar, GTL Coaching & Consulting, LLC

Bonnie Fendrock, Cyta Therapeutics, Inc.

Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

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:

Karen E. Glover

The ILC Director of Communications

Phone: (781) 322-9777

kglover@ilctr.org

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