

## Massachusetts immigrant entrepreneurs sought for honors

MALDEN, Mass, June 14, 2023 / The Immigrant Learning Center® seeks outstanding immigrant entrepreneurs to be honored at its 2023 Barry M. Portnoy Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards. Nominations are being accepted now through September 18, 2023, for outstanding immigrant business founders in four categories: business growth, neighborhood business, technology business and life science business. Self-nominations are encouraged.

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.

Winners will be chosen by a selection committee that reviews the nominations and selects one winner in each category. This year's committed members are:

Business Growth: Herby Duverné, Windwalker Group and former Immigrant Entrepreneur Award Winner; Debi Kleiman, The Upside Angels; Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center; and Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal, Local Enterprise Assistance Fund (LEAF).

Neighborhood Business: Eduardo Crespo, Hispanic Market Solution; Mahsa Khanbabai, Khanbabai Immigration Law; Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center; and Elsabel Rincon, Mill Cities Community Investments.

High-Tech Business: Doug Banks, *Boston Business Journal*; Abi Barrow, Cambridge Innovation Partners; Kathleen Hagan, Hagan and Company; and Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center.

Life Science Business: Lauren Celano, Propel Careers; Alison Farquhar, GTL Coaching & Consulting, LLC; Michelle Linn, Linnden Communications; and Denzil Mohammed, Public Education Institute at The Immigrant Learning Center

The Immigrant Learning Center invites everyone to join us in welcoming the best talent in the world and participate in The ILC 2023 Barry M. Portnoy Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards. The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 8, 2023, at the Royal Sonesta Boston in Cambridge, Mass. Nomination forms as well as sponsorship and ticket information can be found on The Immigrant Learning Center's website at <http://www.ilctr.org>.

### **About Barry M. Portnoy**

Barry M. Portnoy was the founder of The RMR Group, an alternative asset management company, and a founding board member of The Immigrant Learning Center. As a consummate entrepreneur, he built businesses that spanned the globe, employed thousands and contributed mightily to local economies. His steadfast support of The ILC gave thousands of immigrants a voice. Because of his unwavering belief in immigrants and the transformational impact of entrepreneurship, The ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards were renamed after his death in 2018.

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

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, Massachusetts, is a not-for-profit organization that gives immigrants a voice in three ways. The English Language Program provides free, year-round ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes to help immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston become successful workers, parents and community members. The Public Education Institute informs Americans about immigrants and immigration in the United States, 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 LinkedIn.

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