

Iowa International Center Newsflash - April - 2016



Nominate an Outstanding Immigrant for the 2016 Passport to Prosperity Award

The Iowa International Center's Passport to Prosperity Awards Celebration and Gala is a unique and highly inspiring event featuring award presentations to a select number of immigrants and refugees in Iowa, as well as dynamic cultural entertainment and a delicious menu representative of the native countries of each recipient. Last year, we honored five outstanding immigrants and refugees at Passport, and welcomed nearly 300 friends, donors and community leaders at this inspiring September event.



Know an immigrant or refugee who has made a significant positive difference to the quality of life in Iowa? Narrowing your choice may be difficult with so many worthy immigrants and refugees helping to make Iowa a better place to live today, but our nomination form is quick and easy.

Simply complete the [Nomination Checklist](#) available on our web site and submit your nomination along with all requested materials and forms before 5 p.m. on Friday, May 27, 2016. Questions? Call Dr. Judy Conlin at 515-282-8269, ext. 13 or at: iconlin@iowainternationalcenter.org

Support raised through Passport to Prosperity sponsorship tickets helps the Iowa International Center fulfill its mission to build cultural respect and understanding in Iowa, and to continue our work as a clearinghouse of information and resources for international visitors, immigrants and refugees all year long. Proceeds from Passport to Prosperity support the Iowa International Center's Ray Resource Initiative to maintain and grow our multilingual and educational resources, thereby helping new Iowans in our state thrive!

Iowa International Center Dialogue Series Presents “A Taste of Home: Immigrant Restaurateurs and Their Stories”



The Iowa International Center and Meredith Corporation (NYSE: MDP) continue the 2016 Dialogue Series with the program, “A Taste of Home: Immigrant Restaurateurs and Their Stories,” on **Tuesday, April 5**, from **Noon to 1:00 p.m.** in the Meredith Conference Core at 1716 Locust Street in Des Moines. The free cultural program is open to the public.

A local chef and an immigrant restaurant owner will share personal stories of merging their heritage and history with the cuisines they serve. Carly Ross, current director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Des Moines and former owner of Proof, will lead the discussion with chef Suen Harrison, owner of Maht’s Catering, and MJ Gazali, owner of Gazali’s Mediterranean Cafe. Suen is a first-generation Asian American whose family immigrated to the U.S. from Cambodia. MJ, who was born and raised in Beirut, came to Iowa to help with, and ultimately own, his family’s restaurant, Gazali’s.

Both speakers will also provide samples of traditional dishes. Attendees may bring lunch or purchase food from the Meredith cafeteria. Free on-site parking is available in the Meredith parking ramp at 17th and Locust streets.

Complete descriptions of the Dialogue series programs can be found [on the Iowa International Center's web page.](#)

PRESENTED BY



Welcoming the world to Iowa.



Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Share Your Skills at the Iowa International Center!



Interested in working for the Iowa International Center?

The Iowa International Center is currently seeking applicants for the following positions.

- **Director of Development**
- **Accounting Assistant**

To apply, visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org and download an application.

- **Interpreter/Translator Needs:**

The Iowa International Center is also seeking interpreters and translators in various languages but especially in Amharic, Bosnian, Burmese, Cambodian (Khmer), Cantonese, Chin Zomi, Dinka, Hakha and other dialects, Karen, Karenni, Korean, Kunama, Laotian, Mabaan, Mizo, Nuer, Swahili, Tai Dam, Thai, Tagalog, and Tiagrinia.

To apply, download an application ([PDF](#) or [Word](#)) and return it to Rhonda Greenway (rgreenway@iowainternationalcenter.org, fax- 515.282.0454, or mail to: 319 Seventh Street, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Thank You to Amy Yost!



A huge thanks to Amy Yost for her outstanding work as the Director of Development and Marketing. She greatly expanded the visibility of the Iowa International Center in a multitude of ways. "I have often said Amy is the one who turned the lights on, at IIC," shared executive director Dr. Judy Conlin. "Amy greatly enhanced social media, networking, board membership, donors, and new partnerships. An impeccable professional, Amy will be deeply missed."

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events!

April 5 - IIC Dialogue Program - Noon to 1 p.m. at Meredith Corporation

A Taste of Home: Immigrant Restaurateurs and Their Stories

May 3 - IIC Dialogue Program - Noon to 1 p.m. at Meredith Corporation

The Success Code: STEM Programs for Adolescent Refugees

Nancy Mwiroti created Pi 515: Pursuit of Innovation, an afterschool program to educate refugees in grades 7-12 on basic computer coding. See how the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classes are impacting the young women enrolled in the program.

June 7 - IIC Dialogue Program - Noon to 1 p.m. at Meredith Corporation

What We Believe: Understanding Religious and Cultural Identities

Dr. Maeve Callan, who has been studying and teaching religion for more than 25 years, uses her knowledge and experiences, as well as interviews with leaders and representatives of Iowa's diverse religions, to discuss religious and cultural identities; how community members can unwittingly convey insensitivity; and the media's impact on perceptions of religious and cultural identities.

The Sehgal International Visitors Center - IVLP Program

The Sehgal Foundation International Visitors Center / International Visitor Leadership Program welcomes emerging global leaders from around the world to study the work of state and local governments in Iowa. The Iowa International Center serves as a facilitator during the visitors' stay in Des Moines, coordinating professional meetings with delegates' Iowa colleagues, visits to educational institutions, business tours, speaking engagements, job shadows, and hospitality dinners. These meetings have provided the starting point for many of the lasting personal and institutional ties between Iowa and other countries around the globe.

March 30 - April 2 - The Sehgal International Visitors Center - IVLP Program welcomes emerging global leaders from around the world to study U.S. agricultural trade and food safety in Iowa from the following countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Spain, Turkey.

April 10-- 13: State and Local Governments from: Cyprus, Argentina, Nigeria, Somalia, Sri Lanka

May 11 – 14: International Trade in a Changing Global Economic Landscape:
Multi Regional group - countries TBD

May 13 – 18: Anti-Corruption and Accountability:
Marshall Islands, Thailand

May 21 – 25: America's Multi-Ethnic Society:
Multi Regional group - countries TBD

September 24: [Passport to Prosperity Gala](#)

Visit the [Iowa International Center's Calendar](#) for more
community event information.

Please visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org for
organizational news, event listings, program
information, interpretation and translation
resources, volunteer opportunities and more!

Please visit www.Welcometolowa.org
for a complete listing of resources for
new Iowans in 100 languages online.

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