

Iowa International Center Newsflash - August 2014



Accessible ESL Program Success Stories Featured on WHO-TV 13!



The Iowa International Center was honored when WHO-TV 13 recently featured a story about our Accessible ESL Program at Deer Ridge Apartments in Des Moines. As a result, our students, teachers and volunteers were able to share their inspiring stories of success with thousands of people in central Iowa!

We invite you to visit our web site at www.iowainternationalcenter.org and see the impact this program is making in the lives of new Iowans. As part of our three-year Ray Resource Initiative campaign, we are working to secure private funding for this program and other resources for refugees and immigrants in Iowa. Your contribution will help us continue the success story of the Accessible ESL program, as we work to build back critical resources and educational opportunities for new Iowans.

See the great story online at [iowainternationalcenter.org](http://www.iowainternationalcenter.org)!

Please visit our website at www.iowainternationalcenter.org to make an investment in our important work today!



Purna's Story: How Accessible ESL Provided A Path For An Entire Family's Success

Purna Ra (pictured left) is a refugee from Bhutan and is proud of the success he and many members of his family have had in learning English and getting jobs with help from the Iowa International Center. Purna spent over 25 years in a refugee camp in Nepal, where each of his four children were born and grew into adulthood. Purna arrived in Des Moines in 2011 and he, along with his four adult children, began attending the Accessible ESL classes at Deer Ridge Apartments in 2013. They have made major progress in their English proficiency and three of his adult children have found jobs.



**Save The Date for Passport to Prosperity
September 27, 2014!**

Look inside for complete event information!





Community Connections Program Homestay Hosts Needed! Build Your Citizen Diplomacy Skills At Home!

The Iowa International Center has a specific and urgent need for homestay hosts for 10 visitors taking part in the Community Connections program, from October 16 through November 2, 2014. These professional visitors from Kazakhstan will be learning about vocational and construction education in the U.S. during their three-week stay in Des Moines. Stays of 4 nights to 3 weeks in your home would be requested during this time. Please contact Janet Norton, IVLP Program Manager, at 282-8269, ext. 12 with questions or availability as soon as possible.



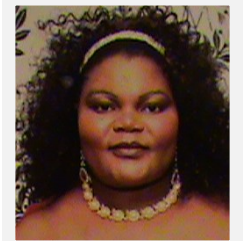
The Sehgal Family International Visitors Center at the Iowa International Center supports our commitment to connecting emerging leaders from around the world with Iowans, enabling new partnerships, friendships and learning opportunities.



Iowa International Center Dialogue Series September Event - "Welcome to Iowa?"

Presented by Dr. Judy Conlin, Executive Director of the Iowa International Center, with special guest Rumbidzayi Chinhamhora

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 - Noon to 1 p.m.
Central Library, 1000 Grand , Downtown Des Moines



Dr. Judith Conlin, Executive Director of the Iowa International Center, will compare and contrast how the resources once provided in welcoming refugees to Iowa under the leadership of Governor Ray has changed drastically in the past thirty-five years. Joining her will be Rumbidzayi Chinhamhora (pictured right). Rumbi, who is a refugee from Zimbabwe and employee at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in West Des Moines, will share her first-person account of the heart-wrenching experiences she faced in her home country and the huge challenges she faced as a refugee in Iowa. The question to be asked is: how welcoming is Iowa today? Join us for this important conversation at a time when our community is engaging on the topic of how and if Iowa, our people, organizations and government, are more or less welcoming today. All Iowa International Center Dialogue Series events are free and open to the public. Guests are welcome to bring lunch to the event. The Iowa International Center Dialogue Series, sponsored by DuPont Pioneer, is a monthly forum held each month at the Central Library, highlighting current international issues, offering perspective on current events and providing audience members the opportunity to ask questions and learn from experts. We thank DuPont Pioneer, Drake University, Des Moines Public Library and the Greater Des Moines Partnership for ongoing support of the series.





Please join us for Passport to Prosperity!

We proudly celebrate the inspiring journeys of these four outstanding Iowans

Saturday, September 27 - Olmsted Center, Drake University

Reception and Entertainment at 6 p.m. Dinner and Awards Program at 7 p.m.

The menu will feature special selections highlighting the country of each honoree!

Tickets are \$50 - RSVP Online at www.iowainternationalcenter.org or call 282-8269, ext. 15.

Meet the 2014 Passport to Prosperity Honorees! *(pictured from left to right above)*

TEJ DHAWAN is originally from India, and is Principal and Cofounder of Startup City in Des Moines, Iowa. His technical expertise, creativity and leadership created numerous valuable opportunities for technology entrepreneurs in central Iowa. He is also passionate about helping other immigrants experience a successful journey and is a committed voice for immigration reform. He is an ambassador for the arts and technology through his work with the STEM Advisory Council and Ballet Des Moines, and helps to increase understanding of the Sikh religion in Iowa as part of the group that established the Sikh Gurudwara in Johnston, Iowa.

LI ZHAO MANDELBAUM is originally from China, and is President of China Operations with China Iowa Group in West Des Moines, Iowa. Her vision for an effective business relationship between Iowa and China has built cultural bridges with Chinese suppliers/buyers to further the understanding of US business and culture. She actively advocates for greater cultural understanding through her volunteer work with the World Food Prize, Chinese Association, Broadlawns Medical Center and numerous other community organizations.

AIDDY PHOMVISAY is originally from Laos, and is Principal of Marshalltown High School in Marshalltown, Iowa. By sharing his personal experiences as a child refugee coming to a small Iowa town, he enriches the lives of students and speaks personally about the need to develop cultural understanding. He has been a teacher in the West Des Moines and Ames School Districts, as well as Drake and ISU, and has helped to develop leadership opportunities for teachers around the state. His work in bullying prevention has created a greater sense of purpose throughout the community of Marshalltown. In 2014, he was named Secondary Principal of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI).

CLAUDIA SCHABEL is originally from Brazil, and is the Organizational Vibrancy Champion at DuPont Pioneer in Johnston, Iowa. In this role, she helped the company's global team develop a cohesive Diversity and Inclusion program, and led the initiative to develop guidelines used by the company's global resource groups. She is also highly involved in the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Diversity & Inclusion Council and is currently a mentor with the Latina Leadership Initiative in Des Moines. She is a recipient of the 2008 Forty Under 40 Business Record Award and the 2010 Robert D. Ray Iowa Latino Ambassador Award.

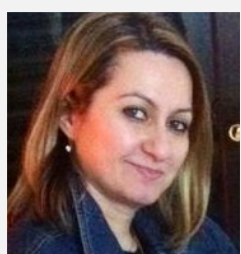
Spread the Word: Iowa International Center Offers 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline in 220+ Languages!



Thanks to generous support from Prairie Meadows, the Iowa International Center is able to provide non-English speaking Iowans, and those assisting them in a time of crisis, with access to a Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline. More than 220 languages are available. Our Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline is a great resource for emergency responders, law enforcement officers and those assisting victims of domestic violence and abuse who are not able to communicate in English and are in a life-threatening situation.

For additional information, please contact the Iowa International Center at 515-282-8269 or visit our web site at www.iowainternationalcenter.org, and click on Resources.

Meet Iowa International Center Interpreter Hind Ibrahim



We are excited to introduce our readers to interpreters and translators who make our provision of top-notch International Language services possible throughout the community. Iowa International Center Arabic Interpreter **Hind Ibrahim**, a native of Iraq, has been in the U.S. since 2009. Hind has been interpreting for five years. Hind enjoys interpretation because she likes to help people by explaining to them the things they don't understand, and the job makes her very happy. Her experience started by helping interpret for her friends and schedule their personal appointments. She also helped translate from Arabic to English during appointments for her son, and that is why she specifically likes assisting with interpretation assignments in the medical field. We thank Hind for being a great member of our team!

Upcoming International Visitor Leadership Programs in Central Iowa:

U.S. Foreign Policy & Food Security - August 20 - 24

Smart Governance - August 31 - September 3

Women in Politics - September 21 - 25

Insights on America - September 23 - 27



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

The Iowa International Center

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For news, events and program updates,
visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org

For multilingual resources in 80 languages,
visit www.WelcometoIowa.org

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