

Iowa International Center Newsflash - Edition 2 2015



Special Visitors from Republic of Korea Explore the U.S. Elections Process in Des Moines

In late February 2015, the Sehgal Foundation International Visitors Center at the Iowa International Center welcomed four visitors from the Republic of Korea to Des Moines to meet with local business and state leaders, in order to actively learn about Iowa's important role in the U.S. elections process. The visit took place as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), which is presented in partnership with Global Ties U.S. and the U.S. Department of State. We welcome approximately 130 professional visitors from around the world through the IVLP program each year. The group of academic and political party leaders from the Republic of Korea included Mr. Kim Moon Soo (pictured top right), a likely presidential candidate in the Republic of Korea in 2017.

While in Des Moines, these emerging leaders engaged in conversations about U.S. political parties and party membership in the U.S. and the importance of the Iowa Caucuses, and also strengthened ties with U.S. institutions and lawmakers. Their day also included a special lunch at Django downtown, where they continued building relationships with some of the professional hosts who welcomed them throughout the day (pictured top left), as well as Iowa International Center staff and Board leadership.

Our special thanks to the professional hosts - including the Iowa Secretary of State's Office, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, and the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board - and our home hospitality hosts for making our visitors feel welcome in Iowa!

Appreciation, Inductions, and Accolades: Iowa International Center Leadership is World-Class

The Iowa International Center would like to recognize and thank Jay Sehgal for his years of service on the Iowa International Center's Board of Directors, as well as for the continued and generous support from the Sehgal Foundation. Jay leaves his role on our Board due to increased commitments overseas with the Foundation. The Sehgal Foundation International Visitors Center at the Iowa International Center welcomes more than 130 visitors as part of the International Visitor Leadership and Community Connections Programs each year. We are pleased to welcome Ryan Clutter, Director on the Board of the Sehgal Foundation, USA and Chief Technology Officer with the Iowa Cubs, to the Board to continue representation for the Sehgal Foundation.



Our Board continues to grow in number! In February, we were extremely pleased to welcome two new Board members - Brendan Comito of Capital City Fruit, Inc. and Jeff Aden of McKesson Corporation.

Brendan Comito (pictured left) is Chief Operating Officer of Capital City Fruit, Inc. in Norwalk, Iowa. Brendan has been active as a business and community leader in central Iowa for many years, through service on the board of DMARC, Des Moines Public Housing Board and other key organizations. He is passionate about educating the community on the value of a diverse workforce, as well as providing a welcoming environment for new Iowans.



Jeff Aden (pictured left) is Retail Sales Manager at McKesson Corporation, and is based out of Des Moines, Iowa. Jeff has previously served on the boards of the Court Avenue District Association, Des Moines Parks & Recreation Department and the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. He is passionate about resource development for our growing organization and holds a strong interest in helping build peace in our community and world, and how welcoming and fostering cultural diversity contribute to those ends. Please join us as we welcome these two outstanding individuals to our Board of Directors.

IIC Board President Greg Johansen Named to Drake University Board of Trustees

The Iowa International Center would like to congratulate our current Board President, Greg Johansen of GRX Holdings, on his recent appointment to the Drake University Board of Trustees. Greg is a 1976 graduate of the Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and has enjoyed a long and successful career in pharmacy operation. Under Greg's leadership, the Iowa International Center has surpassed the \$238,000 fundraising mark for the Ray Resource Initiative, a three-year campaign to raise support for programs and resources that benefit new Iowans, with Governor Ray's work welcoming new Iowans a generation ago as inspiration.





Welcoming the world to Iowa.

Please join us for these Spring Educational Events!

Iowa International Center Dialogue Series April Event

Tapping Into the Untapped Workforce: How Companies and Communities Can Work with Immigrant and Refugee Populations for Success

Tuesday, April 7 - Noon to 1 p.m.

Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue - Downtown Des Moines

Join Karen Miller of Manpower Des Moines and guest panelists to learn about best practices in employing diverse community members with the safety and success.

Iowa International Center Dialogue Series May Event

Gatekeepers and Gatecrashers in Contemporary American Poetry: Reflections of a Filipino Immigrant Poet in the United States

Tuesday, May 5 - Noon to 1 p.m.

Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue - Downtown Des Moines

Please join us as award-winning Iowa author Maria Victoria A. Grageda-Smith presents on her recent essay about the experiences of a Filipino immigrant. Grageda-Smith is currently finishing her first novel, *Gabriela's Eyes*, a piece confronting the "comfort women" issue of World War II Philippines.

The Iowa International Center Dialogue Series engages public and business professionals in conversation on global issues and Iowa's connections abroad.

Videos of Iowa International Center Dialogue Series Presentations are available online. Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org to catch up on these cultural conversations.

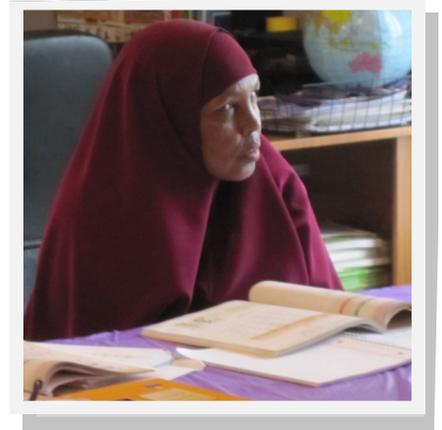
All Iowa International Center Dialogue Series events are free and open to the public. Guests are welcome to bring lunch to the event.

***Thank you to our
generous program
sponsors and
partners!***



Your contribution to the Iowa International Center helps us:

- **Provide** effective Accessible ESL classes for refugees and immigrants in our community, removing barriers of cost and transportation and offering professional instruction weekly
- **Facilitate** hundreds of professional and personal interactions between Iowans and emerging leaders from around the world annually, promoting ongoing partnerships and trade
- **Serve** central Iowa with a network of more than 100 interpreters in 60 different languages and dialects for service to businesses, human service agencies, health clinics, nonprofits and individuals
- **Host** a free statewide 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline for the benefit of limited English speakers and those assisting them in a crisis, in 220 languages
- **Offer** an online clearinghouse of information in 80 languages with critical information on employment, housing, transportation, ESL classes, finances and more to help new Iowans make the best life possible in our community
- **Honor** the rich cultural diversity of Iowa and the immigrants and refugees who make significant contributions to our communities at Passport to Prosperity
- **Engage** our community in crucial conversations that build cultural understanding in the community through our monthly Dialogue series



Please visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org and click "Donate" to help today!



Save the Date! PASSPORT TO PROSPERITY

Saturday, September 26, 2015 - Nominations Open April 2015



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

The Iowa International Center

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P: 515.282.8269 F: 515.282.0454 Email: info@iowainternationalcenter.org

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