



## Iowa International Center Newsflash - Edition 1 - 2016



### Accessible ESL Program Sees Scores Increase By Average Of 64%!

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*Donate today to support our work in welcoming the world to Iowa.*

Pictured above with one of her classes at Deer Ridge Apartments is ESL instructor Sarah Thao, who has over twenty years of experience with ESL teaching. The student assessments from the fall semester at Deer Ridge shown an **average increase in English proficiency of 64%** - a remarkable achievement, especially because many of the class members are preliterate in their own languages. Students from Burma, Nepal, Eritrea, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries are able to take 90-

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minute classes at Deer Ridge three days a week.

The adult students, whose children are learning English in school, are being provided the opportunity to learn English, too. Plus, many are finding

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jobs and learning life skills.



A list of the Iowa International Center's Accessible ESL class locations and times can be [found here on the Iowa International Center's Welcometolowa.org web site.](#)

Our Accessible ESL programs, Free 24/7 Emergency Interpretation Hotline in 220 languages and [Welcometolowa.org](#) resource web site in 80 languages are funded through donations to the [Ray Resource Initiative](#), inspired by former Governor Ray's leadership in welcoming the world to Iowa a generation ago. [Click here](#) to make a contribution to the Initiative - an investment that will directly impact the ability for new Iowans to thrive in our community.

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## Conlin Family Foundation Continues To Help New Iowans Thrive



The Iowa International Center's comprehensive work in serving international visitors, immigrants and refugees is made possible by strong support from our community.

The Conlin Family Foundation has been a leading supporter of the Iowa International Center's Ray Resource Initiative to serve refugees and immigrants. They recently made an additional and generous contribution of \$15,000 to help fund the Accessible ESL Program in Des Moines. Roxanne

Conlin has visited the class at Deer Ridge and is pictured here with Omar, a refugee from Somalia. When Roxanne came to class the students assumed she was there in the capacity as one of their ESL teachers and happily she jumped right in and volunteered to help.

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## Iowa International Center Dialogue Series Presents “Coming to Iowa: The Shared Stories and Individual Experiences of Local Refugees”



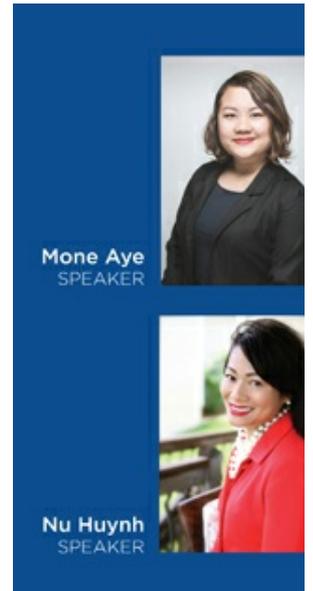
The Iowa International Center and Meredith Corporation (NYSE: MDP; [www.meredith.com](#)) continue the 2016 Dialogue Series with the program, “**Coming to Iowa: The Shared Stories and Individual Experiences of Local Refugees,**” on **Tuesday, February 2,** from

**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.

Featured speakers for the program will be Mone Aye, a refugee of Burma and Karen native; and Nu Huynh, a refugee of Vietnam. The two women, nearly a generation apart, will share their personal experiences of coming to Iowa as part of a major wave of post-global-crisis immigration and provide perspective on what it has been like to be a refugee in the Des Moines community at different times in history.

Dr. Judith Conlin, Executive Director of the Iowa International Center, will moderate the panel discussion.

Aye and Huynh are well-recognized for their community leadership, both on local and national levels. Aye was recently honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for refugees, and Huynh has been praised for her outstanding direction of the popular CelebrAsian Festival in Des Moines. Both women were [Passport to Prosperity](#) honorees of the Iowa International Center last year.



All Dialogue programs will take place at Meredith's headquarters, 1716 Locust Street, in downtown Des Moines. Free parking is available in the on-site parking ramp at 17<sup>th</sup> and Locust streets, open for public use from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on scheduled program days. Signage in the parking ramp will direct people to the Conference Core. Dialogue program attendees are welcome to bring lunch or purchase food from Meredith's cafeteria, located outside the Conference Core.



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

## Engage with the Iowa International Center!



## *How can you get involved in the fun and exciting work of welcoming the world to Iowa?*

- [Volunteer](#) to host international visitors in your home as part of their experience Des Moines, or engage emerging global professionals at your workplace!
- [Attend a cultural educational event](#) to broaden your mind and meet other globally-minded people!
- [Make a direct investment](#) in our work for supporting new Iowans and welcoming the world to Iowa via educational opportunities and multilingual resources!
- [Intern with the Iowa International Center](#) - Opportunities are available for college students year-round!
- [Follow the latest news](#) about our programs, special events and community outreach on social media - via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!

For more information, just follow the links above, or send an email to [ayost@iowainternationalcenter.org](mailto:ayost@iowainternationalcenter.org) with questions.

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## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**Feb. 2 - IIC Dialogue Program - Noon to 1 p.m. at Meredith Corporation**

*Coming to Iowa: The Shared Stories and Individual Experiences of Local Refugees*

**Feb. 4 - 10 - The Sehgal International Visitors Center - IVLP Program** welcoming emerging global leaders from France to study TTIP and agricultural trade in Iowa

**March 1 - IIC Dialogue Program - Noon to 1 p.m. at Meredith Corporation**

*Unspoken Language: Styles of Communication in Multiple Cultures*

**March 12 - 16 - The Sehgal International Visitors Center - IVLP Program** welcoming emerging global leaders from around the world to study accountability and government in Iowa

**March 30 - April 2 - The Sehgal International Visitors Center - IVLP Program** welcoming emerging global leaders from around the world to study U.S. agricultural trade and food safety in Iowa

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

*A Taste of Home: Immigrant Restaurateurs and Their Stories*

**April 10 - 13 - The Sehgal International Visitors Center - IVLP Program** welcoming emerging

global leaders from around the world to study the work of state and local governments in Iowa

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

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Please visit [www.iowainternationalcenter.org](http://www.iowainternationalcenter.org) for  
organizational news, event listings, program  
information, interpretation and translation  
resources, volunteer opportunities and more!

Please visit [www.Welcometolowa.org](http://www.Welcometolowa.org)  
for a complete listing of resources for  
new Iowans in 80 languages online.

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