



Iowa International Center Newsflash - June - 2016



Passport to Prosperity 2016

Record Breaking Number of Nominees



2015 Passport to Prosperity Honorees

There were a record number of nominations for this year's Passport to Prosperity Awards, reflecting the tremendous contributions of so many outstanding refugees and immigrants to whom Iowa is deeply grateful. The Selection Committee will be announcing the honorees for the 2016 Passport to Prosperity Celebration in the next Newsflash – look for this exciting news and be sure to mark **Saturday, September 24, 2016** on your calendars to celebrate what promises to be a particularly exciting Passport to Prosperity Gala.

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Thank You!



Our June 7 Dialogue series featured Dr. Maeve Callan and we extend a sincere thank you for her articulate and educational presentation. Dr. Callan has been studying and teaching religion for more than 25 years and given her topic of understanding religious and cultural identities at this delicate and sensitive time in our history, her presentation was all the more important. Thank you to everyone who attended- we had a great turnout!

The Dialogue Series will take a summer break for the months of July and August, and resume its monthly schedule on Tuesday, September 13.

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

CelebrAsian & World Refugee Day

Thank You!

Our sincere thanks to our Board Member, Mohammad Majeed for participating in our booth at both CelebrAsian and World Refugee Day! Mohammad was tireless with his outreach efforts and as a result, we expanded our program reach and added to our volunteer list. Also, a thank you to Bryann Sullivan (Drake University student) for her CelebrAsian participation which wrapped up her IIC spring internship!



Farewell & Best Wishes

Rhonda Greenway recently accepted an exciting new position with the International Youth Foundation in Baltimore and will be completing her work with IIC on June 30th. Rhonda began as the Manager of the Interpreter/Translation Services (ITS) in September of 2012 and we are very grateful to have had her excellent talent and skills for almost four years. She has added new interpreters and languages, new clients and new opportunities for ITS in Iowa. Among her many accomplishments Rhonda streamlined the scheduling system process, making it more effective and efficient. It is with thanks that we wish Rhonda all the best in what promises to be a wonderful career.

Welcome to IIC!

We also wish to welcome Penny Thomsen who is the new Interpretation/Translation Services Manager. Penny resigned from a successful career in the corporate world to follow her passion: refugee and immigrant services. She spent the last year at Plymouth Church developing multiple programs, including volunteer training programs on Understanding the Refugee Experience, providing adult ESL education and classes, working with the Refugee

Alliance to develop a Refugee Summit. Penny began her training and work at IIC on June 20. We are very excited about the opportunity to have Penny bring her passion and commitment to the work of IIC.

Join us at a reception for Rhonda from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in our Conference Center on Thursday, June 30th – to thank Rhonda and welcome Penny.

IVLP Visitors

We were pleased to welcome the America's Multi-Ethnic Society in May, featured in the Des Moines Police Department photo and the Principal Park photo.

In June, the Environmental Protection, Sustainable Development and Energy group joined us for an exciting week. In addition to their professional visits, they joined us in a session at our Sehgal International Visitors Center. They were also fortunate enough to be in town for our beautiful Des Moines Arts Festival.

Tomorrow we welcome our American Culture and TEFL Education group.

Thank you to all of our hosts for sharing your time and expertise!





Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 24 - Passport to Prosperity 2016

Olmsted Parents Hall at Drake University

Reception at 6 p.m. with Dinner and Program to follow

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