

Iowa International Center Newsflash - March 2014



passport to prosperity

2014 Passport to Prosperity Nominations Open

The Iowa International Center welcomes you to submit nominations for the 2014 Passport to Prosperity Awards starting April 1. Passport to Prosperity is an annual celebration designed to recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in Iowa's cultural, business and social arenas.

We welcome you to nominate someone in our community for this prestigious award! Honorees will be featured at the Passport to Prosperity gala, scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2014.

Nominations are due to the Iowa International Center by Monday, May 26. Please call Dr. Judith Conlin at 282-8269, ext. 13 with questions or email her at jconlin@iowainternationalcenter.org

Sponsorship opportunities for Passport to Prosperity are available, and include reserved tables and prominent logo and name recognition before and during this popular event. Sponsorships directly support the ongoing work of the Iowa International Center as we welcome the world to Iowa and introduce the stories of amazing Iowans to the world!

JOIN US! International Dialogue Series Continues May 6

The Iowa International Center Dialogue Series, sponsored by DuPont Pioneer, is a monthly forum held the first Tuesday at the Des Moines Central Library, highlighting and explaining 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 their ongoing support of the series. Events are free and open to the public, and guests are welcome to bring their lunch.

"Not-So-Distant Friends: The Importance of Personal Connections Across Borders and Cultures"

Presented by Chuck Montgomery, MidAmerican Energy

**Tuesday, May 6 - Noon - 1 p.m.
Des Moines Central Library
1000 Grand Avenue, Downtown Des Moines**

Visit www.iowainternationalcenter.org
to watch and enjoy previous
Dialogues on YouTube!



PIONEER®



Spring Brings Dynamic Groups of International Visitors To Iowa

The Iowa International Center and the Sehgal Family International Visitors Center will proudly welcome three groups of international visitors to central Iowa starting in late March.

From March 29 through April 3, five professional visitors from Cambodia, Namibia, South Africa, Turkey, and Uganda will participate in a program focused on the Judicial System in the US. The visitors will engage in meetings with local leaders in order to further understand the justice system at the state level, the appeals process, accountability and judicial independence. From April 3 through 8, six professional visitors from China will visit as part of a program focused on NGO management, and will meet with NGO leadership at local, and state levels, as well as with local, grass-roots activists on a range of issues such as health, environment, and civil society. From April 8 through 12, five professional visitors from India will take part in meetings and programs related to Agriculture in the US. Their program will help them analyze the political, social, environmental and economic forces that influence U.S. agricultural trade policies, how federal, regional and local programs help ensure U.S. agricultural competitiveness in the global marketplace, and how U.S. farmers and ranchers meet the challenges of providing a low cost, high quality and safe food products for both domestic consumption and international export.



The Sehgal Family International Visitors Center supports the Iowa International Center's commitment to connecting emerging leaders from around the world with Iowans, enabling them to build new partnerships, friendships and learning opportunities. To learn more about volunteering as a professional host for international visitors in the future, please contact Janet Norton at jnorton@iowainternationalcenter.org or by phone at 282-8269, ext. 12.



Grants and Corporate Donations Support Our Work In Welcoming the World to Iowa

Support from generous corporations and organizations help make it possible for the Iowa International Center to continue offering resources, programs and expertise that welcome and serve international visitors, immigrants and refugees in our community and throughout the state of Iowa. Special thanks to the Conlin Family Foundation for the support of the Iowa International Center and our growing effort to provide Accessible ESL programs to immigrants and refugees in our community. Thanks to Prairie Meadows for their support of our 24/7

Emergency Interpretation Hotline, a vital service provided for the benefit of refugees and immigrants in Iowa with limited resources available to them in a crisis situation. This hotline is also of great benefit to the service providers who assist them. We also thank Greater Iowa Credit Union for ongoing support of our [welcometoiowa.org](http://www.welcometoiowa.org) web site, related resources and programs.



YOU Can Help Build A Network of Support for New Iowans

The Iowa International Center's comprehensive work of serving international visitors, immigrants and refugees is made possible by strong support from our community. You can have a direct impact on hundreds of lives by helping us provide immigrants and refugees with the resources they need to live, work and raise their families in safety and security. With a contribution of only \$45, you will pay for one hour of ESL instruction, which includes life skills training and job interview instruction for someone with no access to alternate education and resources. Please consider a contribution to support our efforts to welcome the world to Iowa this way.



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

The Iowa International Center

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

For multi-lingual resources and news, visit www.welcometoiowa.org