

## Winter 2014 - Iowa International Center Newsflash



### New Board Members Announced



The Iowa International Center is pleased to welcome two new faces to our Board of Directors in 2014.

Himar Hernandez (pictured left) is an Associate Director of Outreach and Extension with Iowa State University Extension in Ottumwa. He has been described as a “connector & communicator,” working with immigrants, refugees, CEOs, college presidents and the public to develop a plan for creating jobs, understanding and hope. Himar is credited with reversing Ottumwa's population decline and increasing the financial stability of the area through the identification and support of 25 Latino-owned businesses. He was featured in the *Des Moines Register* as one of 14 people to watch in 2014, as well as in stories on NBC's *The Today Show* and in the *Wall Street Journal*. He was a featured presenter for the Iowa International Dialogue series last year. Kate Wolfe (pictured right) is an Iowa native who grew up in the Oskaloosa area. Kate has served in various roles with Kum & Go, Liberty Bank and Merit Resources, and was recently appointed as the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources with Hy-Vee in West Des Moines, Iowa. She also holds a PHR certification and belongs to a number of professional organizations related to the HR field. We thank Himar and Kate for their willingness to support and serve our organization through board service.

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### Prairie Meadows Grant To Help Provide 24/7 Emergency Resource Services for Iowa Immigrants & Refugees



The Iowa International Center recently received a 2014 Community Betterment Grant from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino to support our 24/7 Prairie Meadows Lifeline. This one-of-a-kind resource is offered to limited English proficient (LEP) individuals facing a serious threat to life or well-being, for their safety and security. This service is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 220 languages. Thank you to Prairie Meadows for the continuation of support for this essential resource.

**The 24/7 Emergency Hotline can be accessed by calling the Iowa International Center at 515-282-8269 and selecting extension 5.**

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### Save The Date!

**Tuesday, March 4**

**Iowa International Center Dialogue Series featuring Kavalash Chawla**  
Sponsored by DuPont Pioneer (See reverse for details)

**Tuesday, April 1**

**Iowa International Center Dialogue Series featuring Selin Yildiz Nielsen**  
Sponsored by DuPont Pioneer

**Saturday, September 27**

**2014 Passport to Prosperity Celebration**  
The Olmstead Center, Drake University



**Iowa International Center Dialogue Series**  
**Featuring Kavilash Chawla**  
**"Social Entrepreneurship and the Arab Spring"**  
**Tuesday, March 4 - Noon to 1 pm - Free Admission**  
 Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue, Downtown Des Moines

Kavilash Chawla is Global Practitioner-in-Residence, College of Business and Public Administration and Principal Financial Group Center for Global Citizenship, Drake University. His presentation will look at sweeping changes related to social entrepreneurship in the MENA region, the resulting implications for regional economic development and political stability, and what this represents for U.S. engagement in the Arab Spring countries. The Iowa International Dialogue Series is sponsored by DuPont Pioneer, with support from Drake University, Des Moines Public Library and the Greater Des Moines Partnership.



**Iowa International Center ESL Classes**  
**Continue to See Success**

Iowa International Center continues to provide ESL (English as a Second Language) instruction to refugees and immigrants living in Des Moines apartments. This project provides refugees from Burma, Nepal, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq and a number of other countries with critically needed English classes, as well as life skills and resume preparation. Help welcome refugees to Iowa by assisting the Iowa International Center

in providing the support they need to successfully live, work and raise their families in safety and security. Your tax-deductible donation will help provide professional instruction and educational materials for these new Iowans. Please visit [www.iowainternationalcenter.org](http://www.iowainternationalcenter.org) to make a contribution to support our efforts to welcome the world to Iowa in a wide variety of ways.



**The Sehgal Family Center for International Visitors**

Thanks to generous support from the Sehgal Family Foundation, the Iowa International Center has established the Center for International Visitors, that will support our commitment to connecting emerging leaders from around the world with Iowans through a series of receptions and learning opportunities. The Center enables Iowans to build new partnerships on a professional level, develop new friendships on a personal level and create new learning opportunities on an educational level.

Iowa International Center annually hosts a wide variety of global leaders who are selected to travel to Des Moines. During their visits, they enjoy professional programming on topics such as food safety and public health, the U.S. electoral system, intellectual property rights, biotechnology regulations, veterinary practices, and agribusiness. Our International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) generates almost \$1 million annually in revenue for the state of Iowa.

**Are you interested in connecting with visitors from around the world? Please call us at 515-282-8269 to see about opportunities to host and network with our international visitors throughout the year!**



Welcoming the world to Iowa.

**The Iowa International Center**  
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**For news, events and program updates, visit [www.iowainternationalcenter.org](http://www.iowainternationalcenter.org)**  
**For multi-lingual resources and news, visit [www.welcometoIowa.org](http://www.welcometoIowa.org)**