



The Iowa International Center Presents

## Passport to Prosperity Awards: Celebrating Iowa's Immigrants and Refugees

2023 Nomination Information

Dear Friend,

Iowa International Center invites you to nominate an outstanding individual who came to the U.S. as an immigrant or refugee for recognition as a Passport to Prosperity Honoree.

We are looking for role models, leaders and neighbors who have made a significant and positive impact on the quality of life in Iowa. Selected Honorees will be recognized during Passport to Prosperity celebrations and have the opportunity to share their lived experiences. We will also select one Emerging Leader between the ages of 17-24 who has demonstrated the hard work and dedication of immigrant and refugee youth as they help their family and community transition to a successful life in Iowa.

To nominate an Iowa immigrant or refugee as a Passport to Prosperity 2023 Honoree or Emerging Leader, please **review the attached Nomination Checklist and submit your nomination along with all requested materials and forms by Wednesday, April 26th, 2023.** If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact me at 515-282-8269, ext. 13 or email me at [pgrote@iowainternationalcenter.org](mailto:pgrote@iowainternationalcenter.org).

Thank you for taking the time to honor someone who has given and overcome so much to become an exemplary citizen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat", is positioned above the typed name of Patricia L. Grote.

Patricia L. Grote  
Executive Director

P.S. You can also submit this information online at [https://iowainternationalcenter.org/p2p\\_nominate/](https://iowainternationalcenter.org/p2p_nominate/)



## Nomination Checklist:

### Passport to Prosperity Nominee Criteria (please check boxes that apply):

The individual is an immigrant or refugee to the United States.

The individual has lived in the state of Iowa for the past five years or more.

The individual has made a significant social, economic, cultural or educational contribution to their community and/or state.

The individual is between the ages of 17-24 (only applicable to Emerging Leader nominations).

A least two detailed letters of support must accompany the application.

If selected, the individual must be present to accept the award at the Passport to Prosperity gala event on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Please submit the completed Nomination forms and 2 Letters of Reference by Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in one of the following ways:**

- **EMAIL** all completed materials as Word or PDF attachments to [office@iowainternationalcenter.org](mailto:office@iowainternationalcenter.org)
- **ONLINE** nomination form entry at [https://iowainternationalcenter.org/p2p\\_nominate/](https://iowainternationalcenter.org/p2p_nominate/)
- **MAIL** materials to the Iowa International Center, ATTN: Jada Thompson, 3839 Merle Hay Rd, Ste 259, Des Moines IA 50310

*Thank you!*



## Iowa International Center 2023 Passport to Prosperity Awards: Contact Form

### Nominee Information

<b>Name:</b>					
<b>Home Country:</b>					
<b>Address:</b>					
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>		<b>Zip:</b>	
<b>Business/Organization:</b>					
<b>Title:</b>					
<b>Email Address:</b>					
<b>Phone (Day/Work):</b>		<b>Phone (Mobile):</b>			
<b>Is this individual aware that they are being nominated?</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
<b>Is the individual between the ages of 17-24?</b>		<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
(Only applicable to Emerging Leader nominations)					

### Nominator Information

<b>Name:</b>					
<b>Relation to Nominee:</b>					
<b>Address:</b>					
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>		<b>Zip:</b>	
<b>Business/Organization:</b>					
<b>Title:</b>					
<b>Email Address:</b>					
<b>Phone (Day/Work):</b>		<b>Phone (Mobile):</b>			



3. How did you come to know your nominee?

4. When and how did your nominee come to live in Iowa, and did this individual come as a refugee or an immigrant to the United States?

5. Please describe your nominee's other notable achievements, such as leadership roles, honors, awards, publications, and/or other types of recognition.

*\*Feel free to submit additional supporting documents (news articles, videos, etc)*

Space for additional information *(If adding additional support to one of the above questions please write which question you are responding to)*

*\*\*\*Having issues with the form or need more space, contact [office@iowainternationalcenter.org](mailto:office@iowainternationalcenter.org)*



## About the Passport to Prosperity Awards

The Iowa International Center's Passport to Prosperity Week is an inspiring event that brings together Iowans of all backgrounds. The celebration features an awards ceremony to recognize immigrants and refugees in Iowa, as well as cultural entertainment and a menu representative of the native countries of each recipient. Each year, we honor five outstanding immigrants and refugees as Passport to Prosperity honorees, and welcome over 200 friends, donors and community leaders at this unique week of events.



*2022 Passport to Prosperity Honorees (from left to right) Narayan Rizal, Monica Paulina Vallejo, Biak Thang, Isabel Martinez Santos, Manisha Paudel*

We invite all Iowans to join us in celebrating the lives of immigrants and refugees who, through their significant contributions to the economic, social and cultural fabric of our community, have made Iowa a better place to live.

Support raised through Passport to Prosperity sponsorships and tickets helps Iowa International Center fulfill its mission to build cultural respect and understanding in Iowa, and to continue our work as a resource for international visitors, immigrants and refugees. Proceeds from Passport to Prosperity help fund our language and cultural programming.

To learn more about the important work and dynamic programs of the Iowa International Center, please visit [www.iowainternationalcenter.org](http://www.iowainternationalcenter.org). For more information about event sponsorship please call 515-282-8269, ext. 15.



## Passport to Prosperity 2002-2022 Honorees

Manisha Paudel (Nepal)  
Narayan Rizal (Bhutan)  
Isabel Martinez Santos (Mexico)  
Biak Thang (Burma)  
Monica Paulina Vallejo (Ecuador)  
Barwaqo Aden (Somalia)  
Dr. Jane Agyeman (Ghana)  
Johnny Alcivar (Ecuador)  
Shaimaa Aly (Egypt)  
Sadagat Aliyeva (Azerbaijan)  
Sahar Al-Shash (Syria)  
Mone Aye (Burma/Karen Nation)  
Somphong Baccam (Laos)  
Elizabeth Balcarcel (Mexico)  
Luca Berrone (Italy)  
Harka Biswa (Bhutan)  
Kenia Ceron (El Salvador)  
Ivania Gabriella Guerra Ceron (El Salvador)  
Cyndi Chen (Taiwan)  
Juliet Cunningham (Iraq)  
Dr. Maria Corona (Ecuador)  
Swati Dandekar (India)  
Tej Dhawan (India)  
B.J. Do (Vietnam)  
Alex Duong (Vietnam)  
Deniz Franke (Turkey)  
Penny Furgerson (India)  
Samuel Gabriel (Liberia)  
Alejandra Vidal Soler Graham (Argentina)

Joe Gonzalez (Mexico)  
Atul Gupta (India)  
Himar Hernandez (Canary Islands)  
Nu Huynh (Vietnam)  
Eric Idehen (Nigeria)  
Dau-Shen Ju (Taiwan)  
Fasil Kebede (Ethiopia)  
Zeljka Krvavica (Bosnia)  
Mirza Kudic (Bosnia & Herzegovina)  
Tijana Kudumovic (Bosnia & Herzegovina)  
Wangmeng Lee (Laos)  
Albert Liu (China)  
Doua Lor (Laos)  
Fred Lorber (Austria)  
Shazia Manus (Bangladesh)  
Luisita Thompson (Philippines)  
Ahmed Merchant (Pakistan)  
Dr. Sachiko Tamura Murphy (Japan)  
Nancy Mwiroti (Kenya)  
Robert Nishimwe (Burundi)  
Vinh Nguyen (Vietnam)  
Sonia Parras-Konrad (Spain)  
Alba Perez (Honduras)  
Aiddy Phomvisay (Laos)  
Sanjita Pradhan (Nepal)  
See Rodari (Thailand)  
Elizabeth Salinas-Newby (Mexico)  
Alejandro Orozco (Mexico)  
Suku Radia (Uganda)  
Alma Reed (The Philippines)

Ying Sa (China)  
Dekow Sagar (Somalia)  
Mazahir Salih (Sudan)  
Rohey Sallah (The Gambia)  
Sandra Sanchez (Mexico)  
Lomoro Santino (South Sudan)  
Karuna Sayeed (India)  
Claudia Schabel (Brazil)  
Dr. Yogesh Shah (India)  
Dr. Rizwan Shah (Pakistan)  
Mohamed Sharif (Somalia)  
Hicham Sibouih (Morocco)  
Cladius M. Sillah (Sierra Leone)  
Isak Sivi (Turkey)  
Mario Soria (Bolivia)  
Alicia Stessman (Bolivia)  
Abigail Sui (Myanmar)  
James Suong (Cambodia)  
Sol Varisco-Santini (Argentina)  
Kumsan Song (Republic of Korea)  
Phoukham Tran (Laos)  
Serkan Usta (Turkey)  
Samra Uzunovic (Bosnia)  
Liansuo Xie (China)  
Swallow Yan (China)  
San Wong (Singapore)  
Li Zhao Mandelbaum (China)  
Grace Zhenhuan Yang (China)