

**S. Ahmed Merchant – Pakistan** For 25 years Mr. Merchant has been a successful business manager. He is Chairman and CEO of Merchant Investment trust, an operator of Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches and Java Lava Coffee, Inc., and a holding company of commercial real estate and bank investments since 1995. He previously served as President and CEO of Jimmy John's Inc. Thanks to his many successful business ventures, Mr. Merchant was presented with the National Business Council Leadership Award by Congress. He also served as a member of the U.S. Congressional Advisory Board. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Mr. Merchant immigrated to the U.S. where he attended high school and graduated from Miami-Dade College. His volunteer work with higher education includes serving on the Board of Directors for the William Rainey Harper College Foundation. Mr. Merchant has served on the American Committee on Foreign Affairs. He participated in a Trade Mission to India and served as a member of the ACFR Mission to Lithuania and Russia. Currently Mr. Merchant is serving as Director of the Foundation Board for DMACC. He has been described as a leader in business, generous with his time and talents, and as someone who promotes respect and understanding between people every day.

**Alejandro Orozco – Mexico** Alex has dedicated his life to helping improve the lives of others. He has been instrumental in Iowa's fight against human trafficking. He speaks out against domestic violence and advocates for the Latin American community. Born in Mexico City, Alex has become a voice for immigrants since moving to Iowa. He is the co-founder of United for Dignity and Safety of Immigrants, Iowa Allies for Immigration Reform, the Immigrant Safety Network, and the former Vice President of ALIANZA Latino Business Association. Alejandro serves on the Diversity Committee for Big Brothers and Big Sisters and as a Board Member and Affirmative Action Officer on the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa. He is Vice President, Community Development Officer with Bankers Trust, where he oversees poverty reduction and community development programs with a special focus on the Latino community. Alejandro is a true leader with boundless energy, a genuine concern for those in need and a passion for social change.