



*Consortium for  
Immigration*

**RESEARCH**

**PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**WORKFORCE INNOVATION & DEVELOPMENT**

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**RESEARCH**





*We are asking for the privilege of joining those who have been conducting good research on immigration long before we arrived.*





# Our Vision

- To work **alongside** other organizations who recognize the economic potential of a proactive approach to immigration.
- To serve as an **academic point of connection** between everyone in the greater Midwest who is doing research on immigration.
- To help develop a **comprehensive research agenda** that will fill in the gaps and tell a complete story.
  - Facilitate a process of going after **major grants** that would **collectively benefit** all who are collaborating on this research.
- To help develop a **scalable approach** to measuring the economic impact (realized and potential) of immigration in midwestern communities.
  - Community to community benchmarks
- To push information gleaned from academic research into **mainstream media**.

# Our History



- The vision for this consortium has grown out of my work as an independent consultant working for Ali Noorani's team at National Immigration Forum.
- Growing awareness of the economic potential in immigration.
  - Particularly for the Midwest.
  - Belief that the economic argument for immigration reform is the one that will make reform possible.
- The vision has grown and evolved as I have shared it with those in leadership at Wright State University in Dayton, OH.
- I have personally funded all of the work that has gone into this project up to this point.
- We are seeking short term funding (July 1-Dec 31) of approximately \$80K and long-term funding of \$250-500K per year.

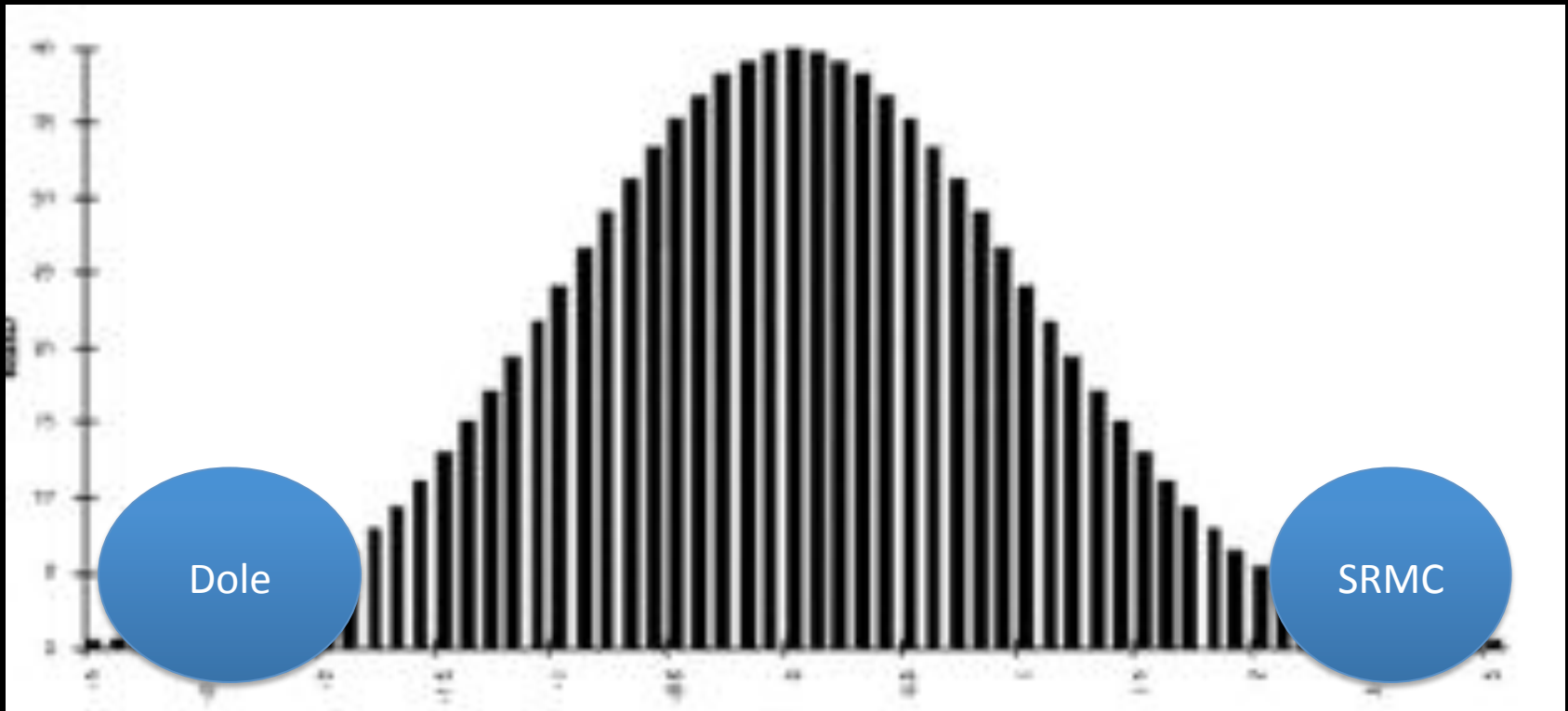
Part of the **urgency** in terms of starting immediately stems from the belief that the launch of this initiative could play a positive role in highlighting the economic case for immigration reform this summer, which may be the best short-term window that we have to get the kind of reform that will help the Midwest economy. If we miss this window we may face a much longer wait for reform.

# Deliverables



- Coordination of research and fund-raising.
- Amplification of research findings – mainstream media.
- Annual Conference- *MCIR Summit on Immigration Research*.
  - A place to present – “What do we know now?”
  - A place to refine – “What do we want to know next year?”
- E-Journal- *The MCIR Review of Immigration Research*.
- Coordination of applied research/consulting services for communities with welcoming initiatives, and those considering the economic benefits of becoming a welcoming community.
  - Grand Rapids vs Youngstown
- Edited Book?

# Where do Immigrants Cluster in the Labor Pool in Clark County?

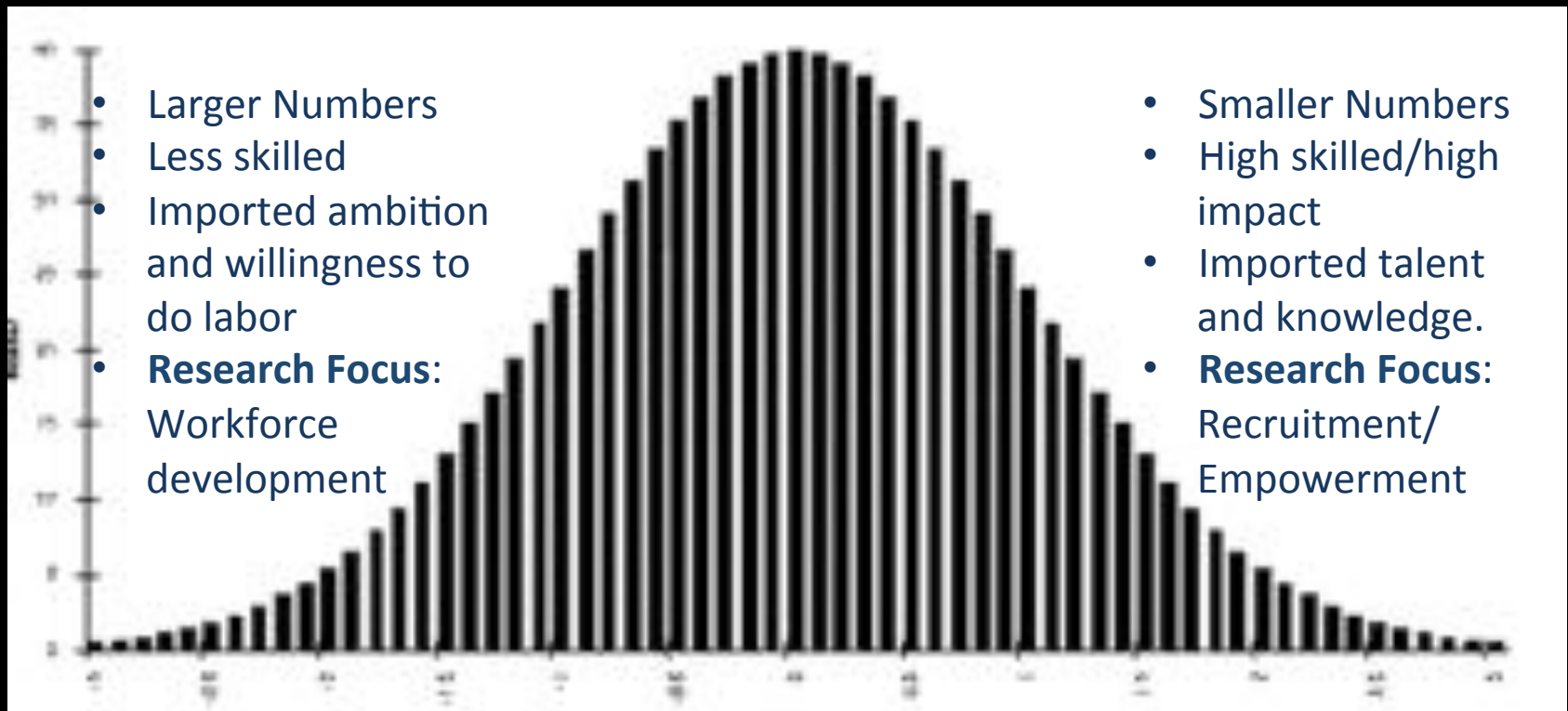


Packing lettuce for  
\$16 K per year

Fixing hearts for  
\$525K per year



# Developing the Economic Potential of New Immigrants



## Immigrant Integration

## Lower Skilled Immigrants: Workforce Development

Education

Access to Justice

Economic Development

Health and Wellbeing

Culture & the Arts

## Higher Skilled Immigrants: Recruitment & Empowerment

Retention of FB Students

Law & Policy

Recruitment Strategies

Retention Strategies

## Economic Impact of Immigration

Macro Impact: Midwest

Micro Impact: Location

Micro Impact: Business

Cost/Benefit ROI

## History & Demographics

Migration patterns in Midwest

Current & Projected Population by State & County

Comp list: Immigrant owned businesses by region

Legal differences by State



# Current Status

- Seeking funding from the State of Ohio.
  - Letters of support would be helpful.
  - Increasing focus on workforce and economic development.
- Building alliances/selling the concept.
- Becoming more familiar with the good work that has already been done.
- Laying groundwork to approach foundations.



# Desired Timeline

- May 20 – Conference call. Initial Introductions
- June 11-13 – Face to face meeting. Global Great Lakes, Pittsburgh
  - *What do we already know?*
  - *What gaps will we need to fill?*
  - *Can we agree to collaborate?*
  - *What will that look like organizationally?*
  - *Can we go ahead and announce our collaboration now?*
- *First MCIR Summit on Immigration Research.*
  - March, 2015, Wright State University

# How you can help



- Share the best research already accomplished.
  - I would like to do a thorough lit review of what we already know.
- Agree to collaborate.
- Letters of reference/support.
- Help making a joint appeal to Foundations for both immediate and long term funding.

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