



## Speakers and Contacts

### **MELISSA BERTOLO, Program Coordinator, Welcome Dayton**

Melissa Bertolo is the Welcome Dayton Program Coordinator at the City of Dayton Human Relations Council. Melissa has been an advocate and organizer for immigrants and refugees in New Mexico, Mexico, and Ecuador, for organizations including No More Deaths, American Civil Liberties Union-New Mexico, and International Organization for Migration. She has provided trainings on building cultural sensitivity and is the co-author of a research article about teaching cultural competency. Melissa is a graduate of Warren Wilson College and has a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Health from New Mexico State University. Although she still longs for freshly roasted green chile, as a native Daytonian she is happy to be home and working to build a stronger community where her roots are.

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### **ELIZABETH COHEN, Project Director, St. Louis Immigration & Innovation Initiative**

Betsy Cohen is the Project Director for the new regional Immigration & Innovation Initiative. This initiative is a joint collaboration of the St. Louis County Economic Council, the St. Louis City Economic Development Corporation, the Regional Chamber and members of the other 20+ organizations on the Steering Committee. The goal is that by 2020 our region will have the fastest growth rate of foreign-born people, reversing our current declines on our regional population of 2.8 million. With this new talent at all skill levels will come entrepreneurship, job creation and people to add to our neighborhood schools, businesses, government, culture and shared economic prosperity. We will involve business, government, education, safety, health, culture, diverse local chambers and agencies plus the people of our region. This initiative will add to local momentum already building for the high number of technology startups and plant science opportunities.

Betsy is on the board of the St. Louis United Way, the Advisory Board of the St. Louis University Cook School of Business, the St. Louis Crisis Nursery Advisory Board and the Washington University Council for Sustainability.

Betsy received her BA from Wellesley College and her MBA from the Harvard Business School. She speaks French, beginner Spanish and has worked with

international colleagues in her previous role as a vice president at Nestle Purina. At Purina, she also launched and led a St. Louis regional coalition.

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**PETER CRETICOS, Executive Director, Institute for Work and the Economy**

Peter A. Creticos is President and Executive Director of the Institute for Work and the Economy. He is a visiting fellow at the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame and an adjunct faculty member at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Master's of Public Administration Program. He is also the principal of Peter A. Creticos, LTD., a policy consultancy. He was until 2007 a Senior Research Associate at Northern Illinois University Outreach. Prior to establishing the Institute in August 2000, Mr. Creticos served as the Vice President for the Midwest Regional Office of the National Alliance of Business (NAB) in Chicago, Illinois. His work at NAB focused on the development of a workforce system that is employer-demand driven while affording individuals opportunities to achieve their personal aspirations. The NAB was the nation's leading business-led organization working exclusively on workforce development and education reform.

Mr. Creticos joined the National Alliance of Business in September 1997 after working for nearly four years at the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce where he was responsible for development of a skills-based job matching system for the Internet. He also was President of the for-profit subsidiary, Center for Business Management. Prior to joining the Chamber, Mr. Creticos was self-employed, consulting on economic and community development matters and conducting research on workforce issues. He began his career in state government, first at the Council of State Governments and later as the lead staff on economic and workforce development for the Illinois State Senate President.

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**SUSAN DOWNS-KARKOS, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Welcoming America**

Susan Downs-Karkos is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Welcoming America, where she works with organizations and communities in engaging mainstream Americans in immigrant integration efforts and in promoting a positive community climate for newcomers and established residents alike. She also leads the Receiving Communities Initiative and the provision of ongoing coaching, training and technical assistance to new and existing community partners, with a particular emphasis on the nation's refugee network. Prior to her work with Welcoming America, Susan served as Director of Integration Strategies at the Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, where she managed programs for foreign trained health professionals and health literacy. Susan also served for more than a decade at The Colorado Trust, a grantmaking foundation. As a senior program officer, she designed and managed the Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative,

an \$18 million effort that strengthened immigrant-serving organizations and engaged immigrants and members of receiving communities in local immigrant integration efforts. She is a former national board co-chair of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and is a member of the selection committee for the Migration Policy Institute's E Pluribus Unum prize. She is the author of the *Receiving Communities Toolkit* and has spoken widely about the importance of immigrant integration and strategies for promoting it. Susan holds a BA in psychology from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

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### **ELLEN GALLAGHER, Director of Affiliate Programs, Welcoming America**

As the Director of Affiliate Programs, Ellen's primary responsibilities include supporting current Welcoming America affiliates and reaching out to new affiliates. Ellen is honored to have been Welcoming America's first staff person in 2009 through a partnership with the Massachusetts for the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Prior to doing national Welcoming work, Ellen coordinated Welcoming Massachusetts for MIRA. In this role, she worked extensively on the initiative and helped create several tools and approaches which are now used across the Welcoming movement. Ellen joined MIRA after working for a member organization, the International Institute of Rhode Island (IIRI), for three years. At the International Institute and as the coordinator of a state-wide immigrant rights advocacy group, Ellen experienced first-hand how immigrants can become scapegoats when proactive steps are not taken to welcome immigrants and refugees. In the face of rhetoric that was intended to blame (the relatively small) immigrant communities for the mounting fiscal woes of the state, Ellen began to call for unity and recognition that a community is stronger when it works together and neighbors trust each other. Ellen's previous positions include: working as a case worker for low-income elderly in Pawtucket, RI and as an ESOL teacher in Cuenca, Ecuador. Ellen holds a bachelors degree in Sociology from Grinnell College and lives in the Boston area.

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### **TEL GANESAN, President and CEO, Kyyba**

Tel Ganesan is the president and CEO of Kyyba, a Michigan headquartered global IT, engineering services and a software product company focusing on education and manufacturing domain. Tel consolidated 2007 and 2008 acquisitions under one location in 2009 to streamline the company operations and consolidated further under one company name- Kyyba in 2010 to bolster the brand. Kyyba, which also has operations in New Jersey and India.

Tel is in the Board of Directors for Global Detroit (revitalizing Southeast Michigan's economy) and also is a member and Board of Advisors of Ann Arbor-SPARK (advancing Ann Arbor's economy), Global Talent Retention Initiative of Southeast

Michigan (GTRI - strengthening and diversifying Michigan's economy through the retention of top international talent) and Astia (to propel women's full participation in fueling innovation and driving economic growth and where women innovators succeed). Tel is the Charter Member of Talent, Ideas, Enterprise (TiE) Detroit and was the president of the chapter for two consecutive years (2009-2010). He served as the Chairman of TiECon and lead the development of TiE's flagship conference on Entrepreneurship in Detroit during turbulent times. Tel is the founder and president of the Annai Ashramam USA Charitable Foundation to assist orphaned women and children by providing job training for job placement resulting in gainful long term career. He served as the past Vice-President of American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI).

Tel has appeared on several TV and radio interviews such as FOX 2 News, Detroit Public TV, NPR, WWJ News Radio and Indian TV Channels. In addition, Tel has been featured in numerous digital and print media such as Financial Times, Detroit News, Oakland Press, Farmington Observer, Dbusiness Magazine, Corp Magazine. Tel has received several awards of excellence and honor. In addition, Tel is a public speaker and has spoken at several conferences and seminars.

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#### **KATHERINE GEBREMEDHIN, Program Manager, WES Global Talent Bridge**

Katherine Gebremedhin is the Program Manager WES Global Talent Bridge. She is responsible for developing and strengthening partnerships with community organizations, government agencies and academic institutions that work to help immigrant communities successfully integrate into academic and professional setting before joining WES, she worked with several community organizations focused on the diverse needs of refugee and immigrant communities.

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#### **PETER GONZALES, President and CEO, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians**

Peter is the Welcoming Center's President and CEO. An immigration attorney by training, he has a distinguished record of civic and business leadership and advocacy, and a longtime interest in and commitment to community economic development.

Prior to joining the Welcoming Center, Peter was a founding partner of the Gonzales Tiagha law firm. He is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and a past Pennsylvania State Chair of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. In 2008, he was appointed by Mayor Michael A. Nutter to serve on the Zoning Board of Adjustment in Philadelphia, where he served until 2012.

Previously, Peter also worked in the Solicitor's Office for the City of Philadelphia, with the nonprofit Project HOME, and with the US Agency for International Development.

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### **RICHARD T. HERMAN, Principal, Herman Legal Group**

Richard T. Herman is the founder and principal of Herman Legal Group, a nationwide immigration law firm serving world-class employers and individuals throughout America. Launched in 1995, HLG provides assistance in preparing all family and employment-based immigration petitions.

Richard is a nationally-renowned commentator on immigration, global diversity and international business. He is the co-author of *Immigrant, Inc.* has appeared on FOX News (The O'Reilly Factor), ABC News 20/20, National Public Radio, affiliates of NBC, CBS, and ABC, and has been interviewed by numerous television and radio stations around the U.S. He has appeared in *BusinessWeek*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, *Inc.*, *PC World*, *Computerworld*, *CIO*, *TechCrunch*, *Washington Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *InformationWeek*, *Journal of Corporate Recruiting*, *National Lawyers Weekly*, *Richard Florida* and the *Creative Class Exchange*, *Site Selection*, and newspapers and magazines around the world. He is a regular speaker for Mayor Bloomberg's national immigration reform initiative, *Partnership for a New American Economy*.

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### **DANIEL KRICHBAUM, Director, Michigan Department of Civil Rights**

Daniel Krichbaum was appointed Director by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in July 2010. Previously, Dan served as Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's Chief Operating Officer. In that position, he championed efforts to aggressively improve the state's economy, increase access to health care for all people, and ensure a high quality, highly educated workforce.

Before his work in state government, Dan served as President and CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion for 11 years. He was also Executive Vice President at WTVS (Channel 56), Detroit's public television station. Dan also served as Director of Recreation and Parks for the City of Detroit and he was the minister of several churches in both New York and southeast Michigan.

His wealth of state government and private non-profit experience are enhanced by his educational background. Dan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the College of Wooster, a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University, a Masters of Philosophy of Education from Wayne State University and is an ordained United Methodist Minister. In 1976, Dan was awarded a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Education from Wayne State University.

His community service includes the United Way Community Impact Council, Greater Detroit Area Health Council Board of Directors, Michigan Interfaith Loan Fund Executive Committee and the SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Government) Board of Directors.

Dr. Krichbaum lives in Bingham Farms with his wife, Susan. He is the father of four grown children.

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**TERRI MORRIS DOWNS, Executive Director, Immigrant Welcome Center**

Executive Director Terri Morris Downs, former deputy director of the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee and special assistant to Mayor Bart Peterson, was involved in the development of Immigrant Welcome Center since its inception and brought to the organization firsthand knowledge of its roots, and sustained relationships with the Natural Helpers, Board, and many community connections with organizations that serve the needs of the foreign-born, as well as a deep passion for social justice issues.

Downs' role focuses on the organization's development efforts by expanding individual donors and corporate sponsors of programs; increasing the organization's visibility and presence as the lead organization welcoming immigrants and refugees in Indianapolis; strategic planning; and coalition-building through coordination of services. Additionally, Downs oversees the implementation of the Natural Helpers program, branches, Welcoming Indianapolis, and monthly Reuben Education Series events.

She is an alumna of Butler University and lives in Irvington with her husband, Tim, and two children, Grace and Caroline.

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**CHRISTINE SAUVE, Southeast Michigan Communities Coordinator, Welcoming Michigan**

Christine Sauvé coordinates activities in southeast Michigan for the Welcoming Michigan project, a statewide grassroots immigrant integration initiative of the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC). She works to connect U.S. and foreign-born residents in metro Detroit. Christine received her BA from the University of Michigan Residential College and MSW from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She is interested in community organization and social systems, with a focus on multicultural community organizing. Christine served as a Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in Mauritania and Senegal in West Africa. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

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**PAUL SCHUTT, Co-Chief Executive Officer, Issue Media Group**

Paul Schutt is the co-founder of Issue Media Group, a Detroit based media company that publishes online magazines in over 21 regions in the U.S. and Canada including Detroit, Washington, D.C., Toronto, Tampa Bay, Denver, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and others. IMG publications focus on growth, investment and the remarkable people leading communities into the new economy.

In 2004, Paul sold the technology company he co-founded and led for 10 years, The Collective. The Collective provided technology solutions for government, higher education, healthcare and corporate clients such as Coca-Cola, U.S. Open, the Superbowl, General Motors, Ford Motor Company and the State of Michigan.

Mr. Schutt also co-founded the rapidly growing, Cleveland-based technology firm, Easy2 Technologies in 1999. Easy2 provides rich retail solutions to the worlds largest retailers and manufacturers in home improvement, consumer electronics, juvenile products, sporting goods, and housewares including Lowes, Wal-Mart, Amazon, Target and others.

Paul serves on private and public boards including the board of trustees of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Washtenaw Community College Foundation and Summers-Knoll School. Paul received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Ferris State University.

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### **SUZANNE SUKKAR, Immigration Lawyer, Miller Canfield**

Suzanne Sukkar has years of experience in all areas of immigration law including obtaining employment-based visas (such as H, L, E, O, P, R, TN, NAFTA visas, PERM labor certifications), family-based immigration, and naturalization. Suzanne represents clients before the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services as well as the Department of State. She's also developed a niche in consular processing. She renders expert strategic and tactical counsel to a broad clientele base. Suzanne services a multiple array of employment and business related industries including: healthcare, automotive, education, hospitality/food, corporate, manufacturing, industrial, technology, financial, not-for-profit, consulting, engineering, and religious. Suzanne has a solid foundation in various areas of the law which strengthens her ability to represent immigration clients.

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### **STEVE TOBOCMAN, Director, Global Detroit**

Steve Tobocman has spent the past four years spearheading Global Detroit, a regional economic revitalization strategy for the Detroit area focused on immigration and global connections. Global Detroit has served as the foundation for Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's Global Michigan effort, an attempt to build upon

these strategies on a statewide basis. From 2003-2008, Steve served as the State Representative from Michigan 12th State House District in Detroit and ended his term as the Majority Floor Leader, the second-ranking position in the House. Currently, Steve co-directs the Michigan Political Leadership Program, one of the nation's premiere bipartisan political leadership training programs. He is the Managing Partner at New Solutions Group, LLC, a consulting firm in Detroit that provides innovative and creative solutions for the common good and that has extensive experience in community economic development, urban policies, and, of course, immigrant integration and economic development  
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### **ATHENA TRENTIN, Director, Michigan Global Talent Retention Initiative**

As the Director of the Global Talent Retention Initiative of Michigan, Athena is leading the first, full-time staffed economic development program that focuses on strengthening and diversifying Michigan's economy through the retention of top international student talent. With nearly 20 years of experience in the field of International Education, Athena specializes in meeting the cultural, linguistic, immigration, and career development needs of international students. She began her career at Michigan State University teaching U.S. culture, English language, and teaching assistant training classes for the Teaching Assistant Program and the Visiting International Professionals Program (VIPP). From there she moved to California to work for the California Institute of Technology as an International Student Advisor. After completing her Ed.D. in International Education & Educational Leadership at the University of Southern California in 2008, she returned to Michigan to work for the University of Michigan as an International Student & Scholar Advisor, Manager of the Intercultural Leadership Seminar, and Lecturer for the Global Scholars Program. Athena's Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bachelors in International and Social Relations (James Madison College) were both awarded by Michigan State University.

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### **GUADALUPE VELASQUEZ, Coordinator, New American Initiative**

As Assistant Director of the Community Relations Commission for the City of Columbus and Coordinator of Mayor Michael B. Coleman's New American's Initiative, Velasquez serves as an internal resource to city departments as they relate to cultural competency regarding newcomer communities, she also works to provide resources and assistance to community members to access city, county and state services

Surpassing her general job description, which requires her to build bridges between city government entities and New Americans, Velasquez facilitates the understanding of policies and regulations that affect public safety and quality of life transcending color lines, uniting communities and bringing a sense of enlightenment



on controversial issues,

Guadalupe focusses on educational, economical, professional and personal development for women, girls and families through her work in the community and has been successful at building and strengthening relationships among diverse populations.

Velasquez is the first Latina woman to serve on the Board of Directors for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio and also serves on the board of the Columbus Council on World Affairs. She supports organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, serving on their Hispanic Advisory Council. Ohio. Velasquez has also served as a board member for the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus, Latino Empowerment Outreach Network as chair, and the Huntington Bank Community Advisory Council.

Creating and hosting "Global Columbus" television program for CTV, she strives to monitor the pulse of all vital information relevant to the diverse ethnic groups living in Central Ohio. Among her many awards and recognitions she is most proud of the 2007 Government Hispanic Business Advocate of the year Award, the Governors 2008 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan award, the 2009 Latino Excellence Award, and the 2010 Community Service Award by the Community Refugee and Immigrations Service organization.

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### **TOM WAHLRAB, Welcome Dayton**

Tom Wahlrab is the former Executive Director of the City of Dayton (Ohio) Human Relations Council and the Dayton Mediation Center.

Mr. Wahlrab is one of the principal facilitators of the community conversation that resulted in the *Welcome Dayton* Plan. He supported the process that resulted in the City of Dayton's Second Generation Disparity Study and subsequent Procurement Enhancement Plan Ordinance and Policy.

He has thirty years working in government and private sector environments involving affirmative action, contract compliance, civil rights, mediation and conflict management, community building, civic engagement and workplace team systems development. Tom received his BA from Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio and a MS Ed. from the University of Dayton.

Mr. Wahlrab is a Fellow and Board member with the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation (ISCT), a former member of the Board of Directors for the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) and a founding member and first chairperson of the Ohio Community Mediation Association.

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### **TADD WAMESTER, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Upwardly Global**

Tadd brings to Upwardly Global a wealth of training and educational experience. Tadd formerly worked as Lead Teacher at Sylvan Learning Centers and as Head Teacher at the GO Project where he was responsible for designing and delivering curricula to elementary school students, as well as mentoring volunteer tutors and teaching assistants. Tadd received his B.A. in Economics from Northwestern University, and an M.A. in Business Education from NYU Steinhardt, where he was awarded the Pi Lambda Theta Rho Leadership Award. He is a Peter L. Agnew Scholar, as well as being the first recipient of the recently endowed Adrienne Gloria Frosch Scholarship. Tadd is on the Board of Delta Pi Epsilon, Alpha Chapter, a national graduate honorary society.

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### **LAURA WISE, International Student Advisor, Michigan State University**

Laura Wise is an Michigan State University International Student Advisor serving F-1 students. She also coordinates with campus and community partners to provide international students with experiential learning opportunities. Laura completed her undergraduate education at Grand Valley State University (B.S. Communication, B.A. Philosophy) and is a graduate of Michigan State's Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE) Master's program. Before joining OISS, Laura worked with the Michigan House of Representatives for over 5 years and also provided assistance for MSU's Freshman Seminar Abroad programs. She is excited to welcome and support Michigan State's international students as part of the OISS team, as well as the opportunity to continue learning about the fields of international education and intercultural communication.

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### **SKYIN YIN, Michigan State University**

Coming from China, Skyin (Xiaoyu) Yin is studying Advertising as a master student in MSU, and is expected to graduate in May 2013. Skyin has had internships in Leo Burnett Beijing Communication; Lansing based web-marketing company UZoom Media and gained both offline and online advertising experience and skills. Aimed at becoming a marketing communication specialist, and to release her passion about food and tourism, she will start her career by promoting great local food and destinations in Michigan to support Michigan's development.

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### **STANLEY ZHOU, American Ally Automotive Products Corporation**

Stanley Zhou is a recognized industry leader, with extensive experience in a wide

variety of international trade, and customs issues. Mr. Zhou's experience focuses on trade, customs compliance, risk management, industrial facility planning, global supply chain management and solutions, and inventory control systems integration. Mr. Zhou is currently President, CEO and Founder of the Troy-based America Ally Automotive Products Corporation (AAAPC). AAAPC is an import/export consulting firm facilitating international trade transactions between OEM and supplier/manufacturers for automotive products between Asia and the Americas and market product lines. He also serves as President of JM Uniseal, a partnership joint venture formed with Uniseal, a US-based OEM supplier to General Motors and Ford Motor Company. He employs 11 people in Troy and 75 in China. Revenues grew at average 40 percent annually from 2009-2012.

Prior to AAAPC, Mr. Zhou was Director of Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp., one of China's largest companies. In 1997, he was responsible for setting up an overseas office for SAIC in Metro Detroit area. He also served as Asia Pacific Sales Director for Delphi Packard.

A native of Shanghai China, Mr. Zhou moved to Detroit in 1997. He and his family are happy to have made Michigan their permanent home. His daughter is an eleventh-grader at Cranbrook Kingswood, and he has become passionate about creating educational opportunities in Michigan for Chinese students. He often met with leaders of Novi, Oakland Intermediate and Bloomfield Hills school districts, along with investors, to look for opportunities to create education programs which can bring students from China to Michigan. Stanley, his wife Lisa and daughter Linda reside in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

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