



# Global Great Lakes

## Pittsburgh Convening June 2014

"Promoting immigration as an economic development opportunity"

### Agenda

Thursday, June 12, 2014

- 8:30-9:00**     **Registration**     **Lower Level**  
Coffee and continental breakfast available
- 9:00-10:15**     **Welcome Remarks**     **Courtroom**
- *Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Chief Executive*
  - *Bill Peduto, Pittsburgh Mayor*
- America's Immigration Opportunity
- *Ben Johnson, Executive Director, American Immigration Council*
  - *Sunil Wadhvani, CEO and Co-Founder, iGate Corp*
- 10:15-10:30**     **Break**
- 10:30-11:30**     **Plenary Session: African American Communities & Immigration –**     **Courtroom**  
**New Perspectives**
- National leaders discuss the issues that immigration present for the African-American community. How can an African-American and immigrant alliance work within the context of the current African-American experience in America today?
- *Todd Q. Adams, Chief of Sustainability and Innovation, Visibility Marketing*
  - *Christina Greer, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Fordham University and author of Black Ethnicity: Race, Immigration, and the Pursuit of the American Dream*
  - *Johnathan Holifield, Esq., Vice President, Inclusive Competitiveness, NorTech*
  - *Andre Spivey, Member, Detroit City Council*
- 11:30-1:00**     **Lunch Breakout Dialogue Sessions: 4 Concurrent Sessions**
- Breakouts will be working lunches with conversations
- Engaging Ethnic Media in Your Home Market     **G12**
- Engaging with niche media outlets is an effective means of reaching target audiences to build understanding, describe opportunities and highlight success stories. Learn from reporters, editors and representatives of globally-focused organizations about how this can be carried out most effectively.
- *Anthony Advincula, Editor and Media Organizer-New York Office, New America Media*
  - *Elwin Green, Publisher, Homewood Nation*
  - *Hayg Oshagan, Director, New Michigan Media*

## Working Across Sectors to Advance Immigrant Integration in the Community **G20**

Attracting, retaining and helping immigrants and long-term receiving community members reach their fullest potential is most possible when diverse sectors of the community are working together. Come learn from cities that have used a comprehensive, cross-sector approach to building immigrant welcome.

- *Susan Downs-Karkos, Moderator, Director of Strategic Partnership, Welcoming America*
- *Leslie Aizenman, Director, Refugee & Immigrant Services, Jewish Family & Children's Service*
- *Melissa Bertolo, Welcome Dayton Program Coordinator, City of Dayton*
- *Al Heggins, Director of Human Relations, City of High Point*

## Skilled Immigrant Integration: Promising Practices & Effective Implementation **G18**

Attracting and retaining skilled immigrants is an increasingly popular goal. But what practical strategies actually make cities "sticky" places where newcomers will settle permanently? And what can be done to ensure that new arrivals make an effective transition to professional jobs, rather than languishing in low-wage employment? In this panel, will provide detailed advice on program models, funding strategies, and low-cost interventions that can ensure your region is making the best use of global talent.

- *Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, Moderator, Director of Outreach and Program Evaluation, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians*
- *Nikki Cicerani, President & CEO, Upwardly Global*
- *Paul Feltman, Director, Global Talent Bridge at World Education Services*
- *Sonia Mora, Administrator, Welcome Back Initiative of Suburban Maryland*

## Global Great Lakes Network and Federal Immigration Reform **109**

The U.S. Congress is gridlocked on federal immigration reform, yet, a wave of Midwest cities and metros are moving forward with innovative immigration economic development programs. Learn how can these programs better inform the federal debate and break the logjam?

- *Nora Feely, Constituencies Program Director, National Immigration Forum*
- *Ben Johnson, Executive Director, American Immigration Council*
- *Juliana Kerr, Director, Immigration Initiative, Chicago Council on Global Affairs*
- *Cholly Smith, Manager, Great Lakes Region, U.S. Chamber of Commerce*

**1:00-1:15** **Break**

**1:15-2:30** **First Best Practice Discussion: 4 Concurrent Sessions**

## Strategies and Tactics to Build an African-American and Immigrant Alliance **G12**

African-American perspectives on immigration's role in revitalizing urban communities. African-American leaders in Midwest cities to discuss why they see immigrants as a critical component of revitalizing their city and neighborhoods and identify the challenges, as well as opportunities, to make that happen.

- *Darrin M. Redus, Sr., President & CEO, MainStreet Inclusion Advisors, LLC.*
- *Christina Greer, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Fordham University and author of Black Ethnicity: Race, Immigration, and the Pursuit of the American Dream*
- *Tolu Olubunmi, Executive Director, Welcome.US*

## International Student Retention

**G20**

Highly-skilled and highly-educated immigrants have been tremendous contributors to American economic growth, especially in the new knowledge/tech economies. New data is available to identify some of these talent pools. How can this data be used?

- *Neil Ruiz, Associate Fellow, Senior Policy Analyst, Brookings Institutions Metropolitan Policy Program Response:*
- *Thomas Buell, Jr., Director, Study Pittsburgh Initiative, Global Pittsburgh*
- *Betsy Cohen, Project Director, St. Louis Mosaic Project*
- *Anne Craft, Director of Marketing and Communications, Global Talent Retention Initiative of Michigan*

## Micro-Enterprise Programs in the Heartland

**109**

Entrepreneurship rates among immigrants have been pegged to be twice as high as U.S.-born, but often immigrant entrepreneurs in cities are engaged in entrepreneurship “of necessity” because they cannot enter the workforce and access good-paying jobs. This session features the successful work of programs in Rust Belt cities that work with urban entrepreneurs and help them grow their business.

- *Steve Tobocman, Moderator, Director, Global Detroit*
- *Sahas Kulkarni, Director, Louisville Mayor’s Office of Globalization*
- *Herman Nyamunga, Director, Global Enterprise Hub & Small Business Development, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians*
- *John Tamiggi, Senior Program Officer, Christian Evangelistic Economic Development (CEED)*
- *Mihailo Temali, Founder & CEO, Neighborhood Development Center*

## Midwest Consortium on Immigration Research

**G18**

A growing awareness of the economic potential in immigration, particularly for the Midwest, has spurred Dr. Carl Ruby to establish the Midwest Consortium for Immigration Research. The Consortium will develop a scalable approach for measuring the economic impact of immigrants in the Midwest and serve as an academic point of connection for others working and conducting research on immigration. This session, led by Dr. Carl Ruby, features a short presentation on the Midwest Consortium for Immigration Research followed by an open forum to begin coordinating existing research, establishing a wish list for new research, and creating a research agenda that fills gaps and completes the story of the impact immigrants have on the Midwest economy.

- *Katherine Gebremedhin, Moderator, Program Manager, WES Global Talent*
- *Carl Ruby, Director, Welcoming Springfield*

**2:30-2:45**

**Afternoon Break**

**2:45-4:00**

**Second Best Practice Discussion: 3 Concurrent Sessions**

## Origin Stories – How to Start a Local Economic Development Effort

**G20**

Over a dozen Midwest metros have launched distinct immigrant economic development initiatives in the last four years alone. Yet, no national playbook on how to create such a venture exists. Come hear stories from metros that have launched, are launching, or just starting their planning and get ideas about how to move your own region forward.

- *Erika Fiola, Moderator, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, Agenda 360-Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce*
- *Betsy Cohen, Project Director, St. Louis Mosaic Project*
- *Anna Croslin, President & CEO, International Institute of St. Louis*
- *Cindy Geronimo, Vice President and Director of Community Engagement, Lucas County Land Bank*
- *Peter Ujvagi, Chief of Public Policy and Legislative Affairs, Lucas County Board of Commissioners*
- *Karen Phillippi, Deputy Director, Michigan Office for New Americans*

## Innovative Ideas for Improving Access to Local Government Services for Immigrants **109**

Expanding access to services for immigrants is important to help them succeed. Language and cultural differences, and not understanding which services they qualify for, mean that many immigrants struggle to receive the help they need to navigate financial, education, and health care systems, among others. This session will explore innovations in how municipal governments are helping to expand services to immigrants.

- *Eva Hassett, Moderator, Director, International Institute of Buffalo*
- *Guadalupe Velasquez, Coordinator, New American Initiative, City of Columbus*
- *Barb Murock, Health Policy Specialist/Immigrants and Internationals Initiative Manager, Allegheny County Department of Human Services*
- *Pamela Lavers, Assistant County Executive, Macomb County*

## Corporate Engagement

**G12**

Too often corporations either create a pool of isolated H-1B workers or pursue internal “diversity” initiatives in ways that stifle true collaboration and integration. How can Global Great Lakes Network members work with their local corporate community to develop a more holistic approach to integration?

- *Lawrence M. Lebowitz, Moderator, Chair of the Immigration Group, Cohen & Grisby*
- *Candi Castleberry Singleton, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, UPMC*
- *Laura Fisher, Senior Vice President, Allegheny Conference on Community Development*  
*Jennie Murray, Director of Integration Programs, National Immigration Forum*

## **4:00-5:00 Plenary Panel Discussion:**

**Courtroom**

### Changing Community Perceptions- the Story of Nashville

This session will review the imperative for changing community perceptions of immigrants, the lessons learned from local communities, and recommendations for community-wide collaboration in order to promote a more welcoming climate in which the contributions of all community members are recognized and expanded for the greater good. Moderated by Welcoming America, this session will feature speakers from the public, private and nonprofit sectors who are successfully working to change community perceptions of immigrants and strengthening community vitality.

- *David Lubell, Moderator, Founder & Executive Director, Welcoming America*
- *Shanna Hughey, Senior Advisor, Office of Nashville Mayor Karl Dean*
- *Stephanie Teatro, Interim Co-Director, Director of Advocacy, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition*

**5:00-5:15**

## **Closing Remarks**