

## Global Cleveland leader supports immigrants

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By Daryl Rowland  
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CLEVELAND: Northeast Ohio's economy extends well beyond the nation's borders argues a Cleveland-based proponent of immigration and foreign trade.

Joy Roller, president of Global Cleveland, said she has witnessed firsthand the entrepreneurial spirit among immigrants.

"I think there is some fear out there that they are going to take our jobs or use our resources," she said. "But the fact is they contribute to the economy — they make it a more vibrant, vital place."

At the high end, many immigrants are doctors, engineers or lawyers, she points out.

"And at the low end, they take jobs that many native born people don't want to do," she said.

Roller said that their impact on the real estate market is substantial, because immigrants tend to buy houses in areas where other people won't live.

An example, she said, is Radhika Reddy, a serial entrepreneur and founder of the Ariel International Center in downtown Cleveland.

Roller said Reddy came to the United States from India in 1989 to attend graduate school at Case Western University with \$20 in her pocket and a plan to stay a year.

In the 25 years since, Reddy has started a range of successful businesses, including Ariel Ventures, a finance and business advisory firm, facilitated many international trade deals and created a foreign trade zone in Cleveland, centered around the Ariel International Center.

The Ariel International Business Center is housed in 68,000-square-foot

former Leff Electric building, on East 40th Street.

The center provides everything a global startup needs — incubation space, shared tech and business services and an event facility for up to 350, surrounded by striking downtown and lake views.

“Immigrants, like Radhika, and many others have a positive impact here, socially culturally, economically,” Roller said. “We want immigrants, we need immigrants in this region. And we are not going to be competitive globally with other cities if we don’t have more immigrants and refugees in this area.”