

Indianapolis welcomes immigrants with celebration week

September 13, 2014

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COMMUNITY EFFORT: Members of Indiana Welcome Center, IUPUI, and surrounding neighborhoods gathered to help create artist, Jennifer Hutchinson's vision on the West Washington Street bridge.

INDIANAPOLIS - The Immigrant Welcome Center (IWC) is once again celebrating National Welcoming Week.
The IWC of Indianapolis is a resource for the growing community of immigrant newcomers.

The purpose of the IWC is to connect newcomers to the resources, services, and opportunities they need to fully participate in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the community.

For the second consecutive year,

members from the community, including IUPUI students and nearby neighborhood associations are pitching in for a much-needed community service project; painting the bridge at 1475 West Washington, near the IUPUI campus.

Terri Downs, Executive Director for the IWC said, "The whole idea is to bring together native- born and foreign- born people. We want to better understand each other and see our commonalities.

The kick-off to an event-packed week expanding cultural awareness began Saturday, with a mural painting designed by artist, Jennifer Hutchinson.

"I used trees from all over the world. I was trying to merge environments and weatherputting it all together," Hutchinson said. The mural features representation of various parts of the world, in an effort to unite each area to each other.

More events are expected to educated and excite the community throughout the week.