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Betsy Cohen

Project Director

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Charlie A. Dooley

St. Louis County Executive

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Francis G. Slay

St. Louis City Mayor

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REGIONAL PROSPERITY THROUGH
IMMIGRATION & INNOVATION

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Steering Committee



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Denny Coleman (co-chair)
St. Louis Economic Development
Partnership

Rodney Crim (co-chair)
St. Louis Economic Development
Partnership

Joe Reagan (co-chair)
St. Louis Regional Chamber

Batya Abramson-Goldstein
Interfaith Partnership Cabinet
(JCRC)

Advisors

Tom Irwin
Civic Progress

Dee Joyner
Commerce Bank

Vince Schoemehl
Grand Center, Inc.

Tim Nowak
World Trade Center St. Louis

Betsy Cohen, Project Director

James H. Buford
Civic Volunteer

Anna Crosslin
International Institute of St. Louis

Bob Fox
Casa de Salud

Dr. Joel Glassman
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Anthony Gonzalez-Angel
Gonzales Companies, LLC

Melissa Harper
Monsanto Company

Ellen Harshman
St. Louis University

Michael Holmes
Rx Outreach

Dr. Edward S. Macias
Washington University in St. Louis

John Nations
Metro Bi-State

Kathy Osborn
Regional Business Council

Patricia Ovca
Danforth Plant Science Center

Jim Pennekamp
University Park SIUE, Inc

Doug Rau
Sigma-Aldrich Corporation

Kathleen Ratcliffe
St. Louis CVC

Dr. Julian Schuster
Webster University

Peter Tao
TAO+LEE

Background



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November 2011

Identified as Strategic Priority

January 2012

Received William T Kemper Foundation study funds

June 2012

Economic Impact of Immigration on St. Louis study

Goal: **Fastest Growing U.S. Metro for Foreign Born**




2012 Study: St. Louis Under 5%



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1980
10th largest city



2012
19th largest metro

St. Louis has the lowest immigration share of a top 20 metro,
and 2nd slowest population growth.

1970
26th in # of foreign born



2012
43rd in # of foreign born

Other metros in the top 20 averaged 40% faster economic
growth over the past decade.

Source: Jack Strauss PhD, Saint Louis University



Key Findings: 2012 Report



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St. Louis foreign-born community is highly educated with predominantly white collar jobs.

44% more likely to have at least a college education

60% more likely to be entrepreneurs

Earns **25%** more than average American born.

130% more likely to have an advanced degree

3x more likely to be high-skilled

Source: Jack Strauss PhD, Saint Louis University



How to Jumpstart Growth



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June 2013

St. Louis Immigration Recommendations

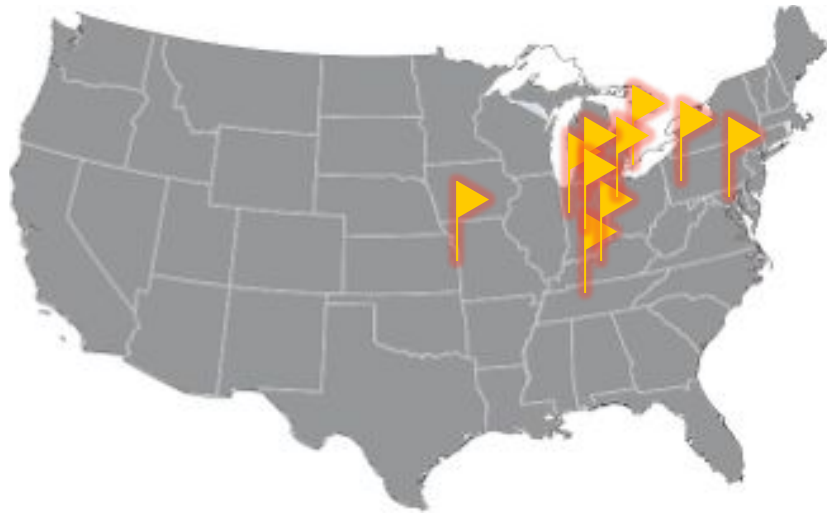
- Internal gap analysis and external best practices assessment
- By: Dr. Jack Strauss, Saint Louis University
Mark Tranel, University of Missouri, St. Louis
Jeremy Caddel, Washington University in St. Louis

Key Findings: 2013 Study



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St. Louis region compared to:

- Kansas City
- Detroit
- Nashville
- Louisville
- Dayton
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Pittsburgh
- Baltimore
- Indianapolis

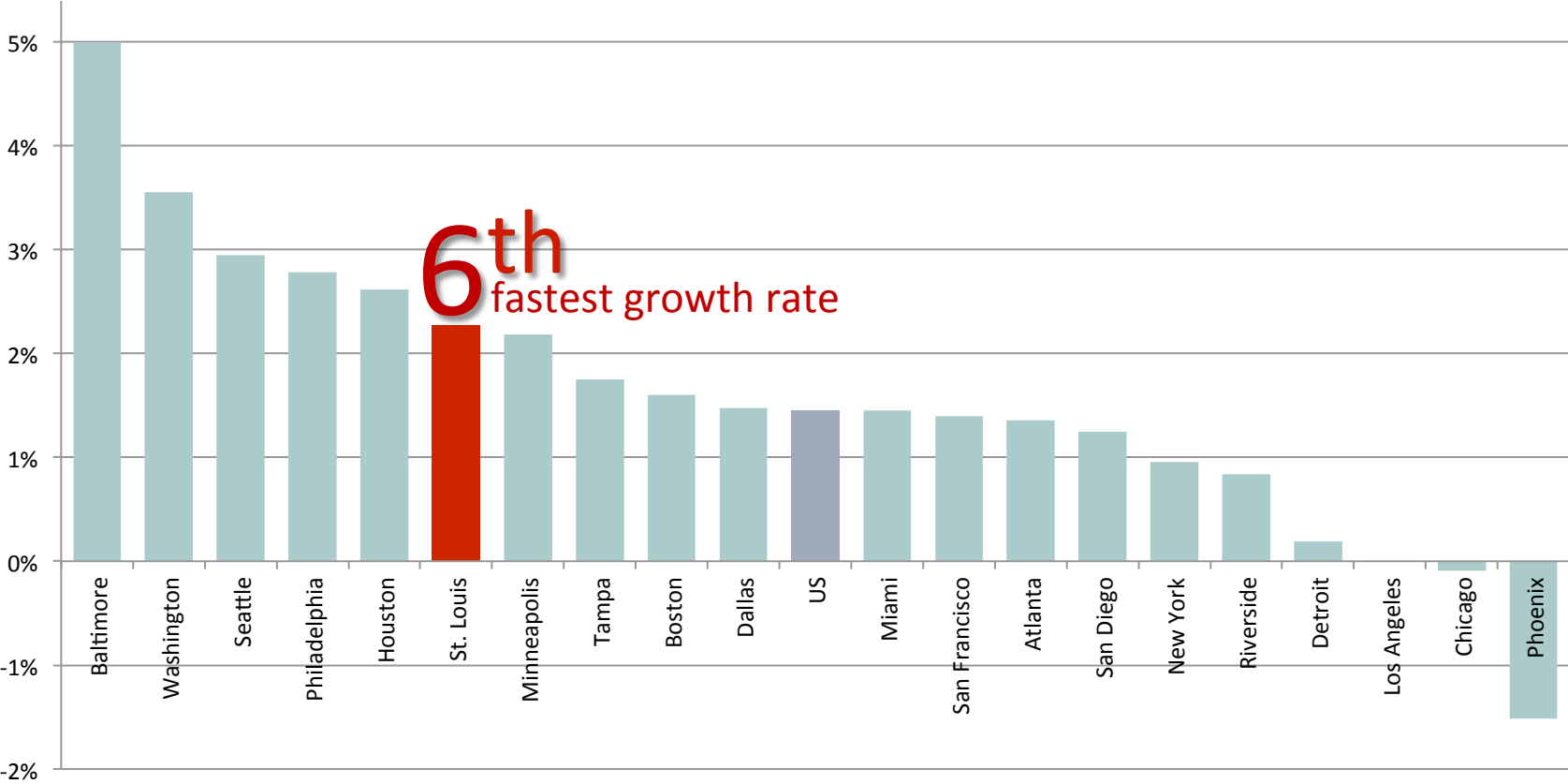
- Fractionalized local services
- Region does not provide coordinated services
- Business and international communities not fully linked
- Immigrants and religious organizations not fully linked



Rate of Foreign Born Growth (2006-2012, ACS)



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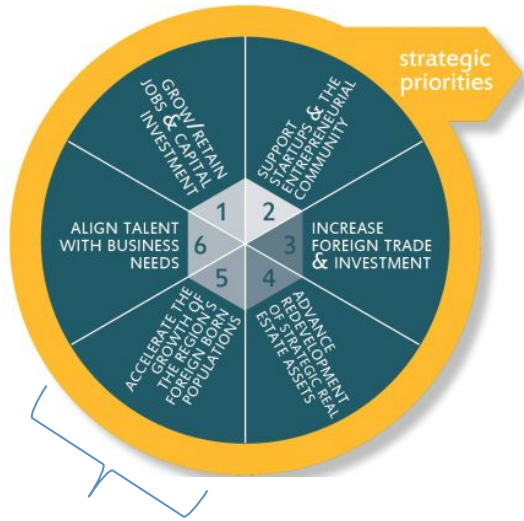


Year 1



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Coordination,
Communication,
Assessment

Launch a welcome center



Create online ethnic
communities

Year 1

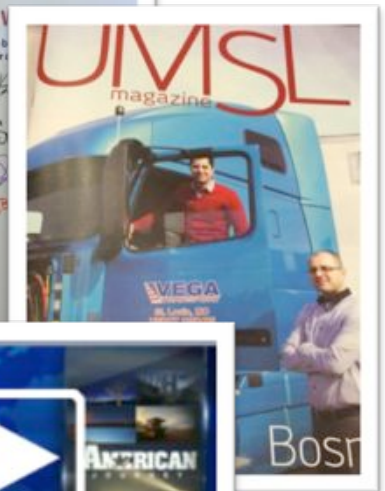
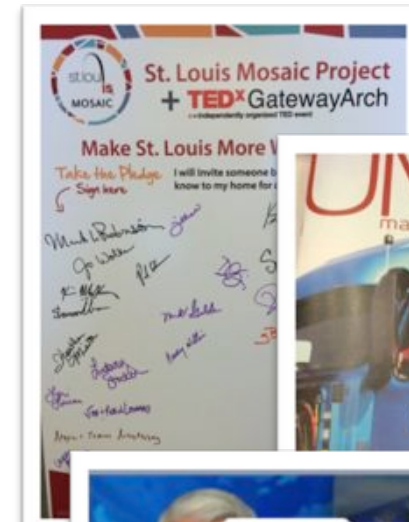


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Engage business community

Connect to local community



Promote policies through political leadership



Year 1



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Include international students

Communicate with MO, IL and U.S. legislatures



Welcome new ideas



What's next?



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- Immigrant entrepreneurship program
- International student/corporate program
- Engineering career path plan
- Health care career path plan

Immigration Reform: Committee Principles



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- Economic imperative for St. Louis
- System must be streamlined and visa availability expanded
- Border security and rule of law
- Special initiatives to welcome and integrate new citizens

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Todd Schulte

FWD.us

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Robert's slide deck

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