



Global Network

LEADING RUST BELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Steve Tobocman, 313-516-9681

[steve@globaldetroit.com](mailto:steve@globaldetroit.com)

Rachel Peric, 443-690-2511

[rachel@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:rachel@welcomingamerica.org)

### **“Rust Belt Cities Embrace Immigrants as Key to Future”**

*White House Joins Over 300 Rust Belt Leaders to Celebrate Innovations in Immigrant Welcoming, Integration, Urban Revitalization and Economic Development*

**July 8, 2015, Dayton, Ohio:** White House officials will keynote the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Welcoming Economies (WE) Global Network Convening. A growing number of Rust Belt cities are embracing immigrants as a means of revitalizing urban neighborhoods and spurring local economic growth, and will be participating in this year’s Dayton Convening. As a more welcoming approach to immigration spreads quickly across the Rust Belt - and pays off for local economies – a new field of practice is picking up steam.

The WE Global Network Convening in Dayton reveals the momentum that the field of immigrant economic development is experiencing. The number of local initiatives participating in this year’s Convening has more than doubled since the initial Convening in Detroit only two years ago. Attracting attention of the White House and national experts, the Convening’s expected attendance demonstrates the WE Global Network’s value and the Rust Belt’s position as a national leader in efforts to attract and retain global talent.

Keynote speaker Felicia Escobar, White House Special Assistant to President Obama for Immigration Policy, who played a key role in the creation and implementation of the first-ever federal immigrant integration policy, will speak about [the White House Task Force on New Americans](#). Ms. Escobar’s attendance demonstrates the White House’s recognition of the WE Global Network and the work of local initiatives across the Rust Belt.

More than 250 attendees from across the country are expected at the Convening, which takes place all day Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Dayton Convention Center. Hosted by Welcoming America, Welcome Dayton, the City of Dayton, City of Dayton Human Relations Council, and Global Detroit, it includes numerous workshops and panels designed to highlight cutting edge policies, successful programs, and innovative ideas in the emerging field of immigrant economic development.

Priority areas for the day’s sessions mirror Welcome Dayton’s five focus areas – including business and economic development, community culture and arts, education, government and justice, and health and social services – that guide Dayton’s immigrant integration work. “We believe we have something for cities and economic development leaders across the Rust Belt at this year’s convening,” said Melissa

Bertolo, Welcome Dayton Program Coordinator. “The list of speakers represents the nation’s leaders in this emerging field of immigrant economic development.”

The Welcome Dayton initiative has been credited with reversing population decline, boosting economic competitiveness and vitality, and expanding opportunities for an increasingly diverse community. According to a report released today by the Partnership for a New American Economy, "[Welcome to Dayton: How Immigrants are Helping to Grow Dayton's Economy and Reverse Population Decline](#)," Dayton has really reaped the benefits of its immigrant economic development efforts. Dayton’s immigrants show exceptionally high rates of entrepreneurship (15.3% are self employed, over twice the average for their native-born counterparts), and possessed more than \$115 million in spending power and contributed more than \$15 million in state and local taxes annually. The PNAE report underscores why Dayton is the perfect backdrop for hosting the WE Global Network’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Convening and the growing movement of leaders pursuing immigrant economic development opportunities for their communities.

“Welcoming America is excited to use the WE Global Convening to release the first-ever **Guide to Immigrant Economic Development**,” said Welcoming America Director David Lubell. Authored by Global Detroit Director Steve Tobocman, the guide “Responds to the growing demand from communities looking to start or enhance an initiative to spark growth in their city and local economy by better integrating immigrants and the skills, entrepreneurial spirit, talent, and energy they bring to local economies,” added Lubell. As more communities in the Rust Belt recognize the value of immigrants to their local economies, this guide, and the Convening, can provide a framework to help them develop their own initiatives based on their local needs and infrastructure.

#### **About the WE (Welcoming Economies) Global Network**

The mission of the WE Global Network is to strengthen the work, maximize the impact, and sustain the efforts of local economic and community development initiatives across the region that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities as valued contributors to the region’s shared prosperity. WE Global Network embraces the following core values: Immigrant communities are central to expanding economic opportunity and revitalizing the entire region; welcoming immigrants into the economic and social fabric of a region helps to make that region more socially vibrant for everyone; and regional economic development initiatives can play a role not just in attracting immigrants, but also in retaining them and in enhancing their role in the community’s economic and social fabric.

The WE Global Network is a project of [Welcoming America](#) in partnership with [Global Detroit](#). For further information on WE Global Network visit [www.WEGlobalNetwork.org](http://www.WEGlobalNetwork.org).

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# Global Network

LEADING RUST BELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION

The **WE Global Network** is a regional Network of immigrant economic development organizations working in cities and regions across the Midwest. The Network is designed to strengthen the work, maximize the impact, and sustain the efforts of individual local initiatives across the region that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities as valued contributors to local economies.

The Network, officially launched in April 2015 as a project of Welcoming America in partnership with Global Detroit, is comprised of over a dozen regional economic development initiatives from a 10-state region across the Rust Belt working to tap into the economic development opportunities created by immigrants.

Members of the Network benefit from peer-to-peer learning exchanges, increased publicity, policy and research tools developed for immigrant economic development organizations, access to technical assistance, and other capacity building resources.

WE Global Network hosts an annual Convening, which weaves together cutting edge policies, successful programs, innovative ideas, and a network of trailblazers in the emerging field of immigrant economic development. The Convening is designed to connect individuals working in immigrant and economic development fields across the Rust Belt.

## CORE VALUES

- Immigrant communities are assets to be nurtured and grown as a means of producing economic opportunity for the entire region.
- Welcoming immigrants into the economic and social fabric of a region helps to make that region more economically competitive and more attractive socially.
- Regional economic development initiatives can play a role not just in attracting immigrants, but also in retaining them and in enhancing their role in the community's economic and social fabric.

[weglobalnetwork.org](http://weglobalnetwork.org)

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## LEADING RUST BELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION



### NETWORK MEMBERS

Agenda 360 (Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce), [Cincinnati, OH](#)  
Centerstate CEO/Northside UP, [Syracuse, NY](#)  
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, [Cincinnati, OH](#)

City of Akron, [Akron, OH](#)  
City of Chicago, [Chicago, IL](#)  
City of Cincinnati, [Cincinnati, OH](#)  
City of Columbus, [Columbus, OH](#)  
City of Pittsburgh, [Pittsburgh, PA](#)  
Global Cleveland, [Cleveland, OH](#)  
Global Detroit, [Detroit, MI](#)  
Global Pittsburgh, [Pittsburgh, PA](#)  
Global Ties Akron, [Akron, OH](#)  
Global Village Festival of Greater Akron, [Akron, OH](#)

Immigrant Welcome Center, [Indianapolis, IN](#)  
IMPRINT, [New York, NY](#)  
International Institute of Buffalo, [Buffalo, NY](#)

International Institute of St. Louis, [St. Louis, MO](#)  
Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)/Global Lansing, [Lansing, MI](#)  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, [Detroit, MI](#)  
Michigan Office for New Americans (MONA)/State of Michigan, [Lansing, MI](#)  
Neighborhood Development Center, [St. Paul, MN](#)  
One Macomb (Macomb County), [Macomb, MI](#)  
State of New York, [New York, NY](#)  
St. Louis Mosaic, [St. Louis, MO](#)  
Upwardly Global, [New York, NY](#)  
Vibrant Pittsburgh, [Pittsburgh, PA](#)  
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians, [Philadelphia, PA](#)  
Welcome Dayton (City of Dayton), [Dayton, OH](#)  
Welcome Springfield, [Springfield, OH](#)  
Welcome TLC (Board of Lucas County Commissioners), [Toledo, OH](#)

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At **Welcoming Economies (WE) Global Network**, our members understand that great ideas come from putting our heads together and sharing stories, best practices, and lessons learned. WE Global Network provides industry leadership, resources, and counsel that help member organizations improve their immigrant economic development efforts locally. The Network strives to provide value to organizations at a range of growth stages from startup groups to long-standing practitioners by helping to better connect their local economies with an increasingly borderless world. WE Global Network has two membership tiers including Core and General Membership, as explained below.

### **Core Member Benefits**

The Core Membership is comprised of city or state departments, nonprofits, and other organizations in the ten-state region that welcome, retain, and empower immigrants as valued contributors to their local economy. We call their work “immigrant economic development.” The benefits of Core Membership include:

#### **Engaging in City-to-City Exchanges**

Immigrant economic development work takes on a multitude of forms and each of our membership organizations boast unique strengths. Ongoing exchanges within the WE Global Network bring together leaders and inspire member organizations with fresh outlooks on how to generate impact at home. These exchanges between visiting members, stakeholders, policy makers, chambers of commerce, local universities, and more help to foster multilateral growth and replication. The Network provides travel stipends to allow for these visits.

#### **Joint Membership with Welcoming America**

Welcoming America has received national attention and its members enjoy both national and transatlantic learning exchanges. Welcoming America provides tools, resources, and technical assistance.

**Core Members also receive:**

- Technical assistance and thought leadership from WE Global Network
- Member-only resources, research, and publications
- Travel stipends to attend the WE Global Network Convening
- Data, talking points, and graphics for Joint Days of Public Action
- A profile page on the WE Global Network Website
- Selection of the WE Global Network Steering Committee

**General Member Benefits**

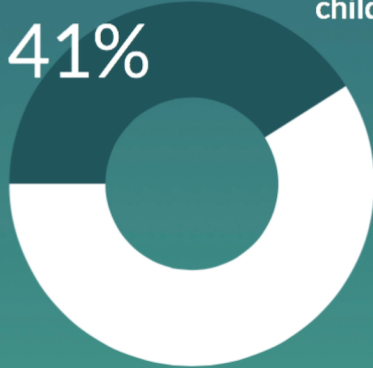
The General Membership is made up of regional and national thought leaders, elected officials, researchers, business groups, ethnic social service organizations, welcoming entities, philanthropy, affiliate organizations of WE Global Network Members, and individual allies. General Membership benefits include:

- Data, talking points, and graphics for Joint Days of Public Action
- Access to resources, research, and other timely information associated with the field of immigrant inclusion and economic development
- Participation in Network-only webinars and events
- Enjoy benefits of Welcoming America membership and a discounted rate for full Welcoming America membership



# National Statistics

More than 40% of Fortune 500 Companies were founded by immigrants or their children



These companies employ more than 10 million people



and generate revenues of \$4.2 trillion...



a number greater than the GDP of every country in the world except China, Japan, and the U.S.



• Immigrants are almost 2 times as likely to start a business as U.S. born residents



• 25% of American high-tech startups created between 1995 and 2005 were started by immigrants



• Immigrant-owned businesses pay out \$126 billion in payroll each year

## Immigrant-owned businesses make up 28% of Main Street Businesses:

38% of all restaurants



58% of all dry cleaners



53% of all grocery stores





Welcoming America inspires people to build a different kind of community— one that embraces immigrants and fosters opportunity for all. Welcoming America leads a movement of inclusive communities across the nation becoming more prosperous by making everyone who lives there feel like they belong. Welcoming America connects a broad network of nonprofits and local governments and supports them in developing plans, programs and policies that transform their communities into vibrant places where people respect each other and everyone’s talents are valued and cultivated. Because when communities welcome newcomers, they become better places for everyone.

Since its launch in 2009, Welcoming America has become a recognized national leader on immigrant inclusion and welcoming, honored by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and BMW Group through the 2014 Intercultural Innovation Award, by President Barack Obama, and as “Champions of Change” by the White House in 2013. Welcoming America has also been featured in the *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Forbes*, and NPR, among many other local and national media outlets.

Welcoming America is a founding and managing partner for the WE Global Network. Its programs include the following:

#### **Welcoming Members – A Network of Community Initiatives**

Welcoming America’s national membership program offers tools, resources, and a national network to help nonprofit and government partners transform their communities into more welcoming places. Participating members connect with their peers to share good ideas, and receive recognition for their efforts to create more welcoming communities that improve the quality of life and economic potential for all residents.

#### **Welcoming Cities and Counties**

As part of our broader membership network, Welcoming Cities and Counties is a community of practice for local government leaders and represents 50+ communities who have committed to advancing welcoming policy and practice. Website: [www.welcomingcities.org](http://www.welcomingcities.org).

#### **Welcoming Refugees**

Supported by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, the *Fostering Community Engagement and Welcoming Communities Project* offers tools and support to enhance and sustain resettlement efforts and ensure the success of refugees in communities nationwide. Website: [www.welcomingrefugees.org](http://www.welcomingrefugees.org).

#### **Welcoming Week**

Each year in September, Welcoming America and its partners host events that bring together immigrants and U.S.-born community members in a spirit of unity. Website: [www.welcomingweek.org](http://www.welcomingweek.org).

#### **Welcoming Institute**

Welcoming America offers training and technical assistance to organizations interested in fostering greater inclusion for newcomers and all residents.

#### **Media Contact:**

Rachel Peric, Deputy Director  
[rachel@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:rachel@welcomingamerica.org) / Office: 404-662-2613 / Cell: 443-690-2511  
315 West Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 500 | Decatur, GA 30030





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**Welcome Dayton** is a nationally-recognized community initiative that reflects our country's core philosophy: people with diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences fuel our nation's success. On October 5, 2011, the Dayton City Commission adopted the framework of the Welcome Dayton Plan, a community-wide initiative designed to ensure that immigrants and refugees in the Dayton region are welcomed and are able to access the needed services as they begin their life in this country. The City Commission also acknowledged that taking this step also benefits the city, as immigrants help the city grow jobs, businesses and population. More than 130 people representing all segments of the community participated in crafting the Welcome Dayton plan. The Welcome Dayton Resolution gave the Commission the authority to establish a Welcome Dayton Committee, as well as identify public and private funding to facilitate community organizations that assist immigrants.

**Welcome Dayton established strategic goals in five key areas:**

- 1) Business and Economic Development
- 2) Community, Culture, Arts, Local Government, and Justice System
- 3) Education
- 4) Government and Justice
- 5) Social and Health Services

In addition to spearheading community initiatives in these areas, the Welcome Dayton Committee is tasked with evaluating the potential effectiveness of legislative solutions and recommending them for City Commission approval. Today, the Welcome Dayton program has a full board made up of community leaders; it has offices in the City of Dayton Human Relations Council, has a full-time administrator and two community outreach workers.

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**CONTACT US**

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**Toni Bankston**

City of Dayton Manager of Public Affairs  
Toni.bankston@daytonohio.gov  
937-333-3614

**Melissa Bertolo**

Welcome Dayton Program Coordinator  
Melissa.bertolo@daytonohio.gov  
(937)361-6523

371 W. Second St. Suite 100  
Dayton, Ohio 45402



# Mobilizing Detroit's Immigrant Potential

Global Detroit is a key innovator in the revitalization of Southeast Michigan's economy and is a national leader in the emerging field of immigrant economic development. We pursue a broad array of innovative initiatives that are critical to strengthening our regional economy, producing jobs, and restoring prosperity to Southeast Michigan families. Global Detroit has helped connect over \$7 million in philanthropic, government, and corporate investments with over a half dozen ambitious initiatives since completing an initial Global Detroit study in 2010. These initiatives include:



## **Michigan Global Talent Retention Initiative ([MIGTRI.org](http://MIGTRI.org))** –

This initiative is the first international student retention program in the country. It works with over 60 Michigan employers to fill their unmet talent needs and with 32 colleges and universities to attract and retain talented international students.



## **Upwardly Global ([UpwardlyGlobal.org](http://UpwardlyGlobal.org))** –

Global Detroit and Upwardly Global have worked with Michigan to become the fourth state to have a guide to assist immigrants, refugees, and foreign-trained professionals in navigating state licensing requirements for engineers, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, nurses, IT, accountants, and other needed professions. In June 2014, Upwardly Global opened its Detroit office to assist unemployed and underemployed skilled immigrants and refugees fill unmet talent needs in the region.



## **ProsperUS Detroit ([ProsperUSDetroit.org](http://ProsperUSDetroit.org))** –

The ProsperUS Detroit microenterprise training, lending, and support program is modeled upon the Neighborhood Development Center in Minneapolis-St. Paul and works in low-income Detroit neighborhoods to tap into the hidden talent within the community, revitalize commercial strips, create local jobs, and build African-American and immigrant business.

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**Welcome Mat Detroit** ([WelcomeMatDetroit.org](http://WelcomeMatDetroit.org)) – Global Detroit has formed a network of the more than 100 nonprofit integration service organizations in the Detroit metropolitan region, including developing a searchable online database of more than 700 distinct organizations and events helping to integrate immigrants: these vital services help immigrants foster a sense of community and prosper in the region. Welcome Mat Detroit also is engaged in the civic integration of new immigrant communities.



**Cultural Ambassadors** ([GlobalDetroit.com/Cultural-Ambassadors](http://GlobalDetroit.com/Cultural-Ambassadors)) - The Cultural Ambassadors program encourages Michigan residents to volunteer their expertise, and it works to insure that volunteers are meaningfully engaged and effectively utilized. It aims to directly connect immigrants, international students, and young professionals to the marketplace, and Michigan's industries to the global economy.



**Welcoming Michigan – Michigan Immigrant Rights Center** ([WelcomingMichigan.org](http://WelcomingMichigan.org)) – Welcoming Michigan is one of the most active members of Welcoming America's national networks and it works with non-immigrant “receiving” communities to cultivate a welcoming atmosphere for recent immigrants. Welcoming Michigan has established programs in Detroit, Hamtramck, and Sterling Heights. Michigan has six Welcoming Cities and Counties (Detroit, Hamtramck, Sterling Heights, Macomb County, East Lansing, and Clinton Township) in Welcoming America's Welcoming Cities and Counties Program.



**Mayor's Office of Immigrants and International Affairs** In June 2015, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan hired a Director of Immigrants and International Affairs to assist in helping immigrant businesses, making City services language accessible, and developing programs to better connect Detroit's growing immigrant and ethnic residents to city services and opportunities.

Global Detroit is a powerful contributor to Detroit's rebirth. This affirmative immigrant-welcoming and global-connection building effort can serve as the type of “game changer” to provide the talent, innovation and culture change necessary for Metro Detroit to reclaim its place among the world's thriving, multi-national global cities.

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## City Leaders Discuss Welcoming Immigrants at Global Great Lakes Convening

June 17, 2014

By Paul McDaniel



Gabriel Berumen, originally from Mexico, knows the value of immigrant-owned small businesses for local communities. He started Las Palmas, a Latino grocery store chain, in the Pittsburgh area. Now, Las Palmas has expanded to suburban communities around Pittsburgh. Berumen's chain of grocery stores is an example of how Pittsburgh, once the heart of America's steel industry, is exploring ways to advance its diversified post-industrial knowledge and service-oriented economy. Like a growing number of cities, Pittsburgh leaders are encouraging immigrants to settle in the city. "Pittsburgh has long been home to generations of immigrants—it drew my family here and so many others—but there is much more we can do, especially in supporting business opportunities and innovation among all our residents, old and new. While we celebrate our immigrant past, we need to build on a welcoming future," Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto said at the launch of Welcoming Pittsburgh in late May. As Immigrant Heritage Month continues, places like Pittsburgh are working to attract, welcome, and retain immigrants, and are networking together to share best practices and learn from one another. One such example is the second Global Great Lakes Network Convening, which brought together representatives of cities and organizations across the Midwest and Great Lakes regions working on immigrant-related economic development initiatives.

Speaking at the convening's opening session last week, Peduto and Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald noted that immigrants were an important component in

industrial cities—places like Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Detroit—and are important today in helping regions to grow. For example, Pittsburgh is beginning the process of not only seeking ways to grow its human capital, both incumbent and new, but also cultivating a broader welcoming environment toward newcomers through initiatives such as [Vibrant Pittsburgh](#), [Global Pittsburgh](#), and [Welcoming Pittsburgh](#). Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh are both members of the nationwide Welcoming Cities and Counties initiative. And as Fitzgerald noted, they're encouraging all of the county's more than 100 municipalities to become welcoming cities. That could be an important step as over half of immigrants in the U.S. actually live in suburbs of the largest metropolitan areas. In the case of the Pittsburgh metro area, three-fourths of immigrants live in the surrounding suburbs. Peduto and Fitzgerald also noted that efforts are underway at the state level to create a more welcoming environment for immigrants to Pennsylvania. Last week, Pennsylvania Sen. Jim Ferlo introduced a bill to create an Office of New Americans, which would serve as a liaison between the state and immigrant communities.

Participants at the convening frequently returned to the importance of strengthening the existing workforce while also attracting new talent to cities. "In order to be a growing place, an economically growing place, you have to have people—talent—that's contributing as workers, as entrepreneurs, as job-creators, as educators, as students—you need to have individuals making those contributions, anchoring themselves in your community, doing great things," said Melanie Harrington, president and CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh. "We need to be able to attract and retain and sufficiently engage and include and integrate immigrants into our community," she said. "These will become the new Americans that will ensure the economic prosperity of our region."

Sunil Wadhvani, an immigrant entrepreneur, co-founder and co-chairman of iGATE Corporation, told conference attendees that "immigrants add value, and regions around the nation are beginning to recognize this." As this message begins to resonate around the country, the efforts of cities and counties to create more welcoming environments serve as a stark contrast to Congressional inaction, but also give hope for more and better reform to come.

Photo by Matthew Paulson.



## Conference held on immigrant-related economic development initiatives

19 June 2014

Diane I. Daniels



*SHOOTING FOR VIBRANCE—Vibrant Pittsburgh CEO, Melanie Harrington encourages and supports diverse communities and workforces.*

Immigration, defined as the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country has been a part of America since the 1600s. And according to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Mayor Bill Peduto immigration has played a major role in the development of the Allegheny County and Pittsburgh region.

“This city was built on the shoulders of immigrants as well as other rust belt cities like Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit,” Peduto said.

The stance of the region’s leaders is that it is necessary for Allegheny County and Pittsburgh to be welcoming to all. The future is about bringing people to the area to succeed, they said. In Fitzgerald’s opinion everyone’s talent is compulsory to move the region forward.



***YES IN OUR BACKYARDS***— Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Mayor Bill Peduto address participants during the Global Great Lakes Network conference. (Photos by Diane I Daniels)

“It should be the mind set of all entities to work together,” he indicated pointing out that it takes the unity of government, corporations, civic organizations and the community.

The fact that more than 200 people gathered in Pittsburgh to address the issue of attracting and retaining immigrants to their perspective regions, to achieve economic growth, and to discuss ways to connect them with the existing population, especially underserved communities, was pleasing to Melanie Harrington, CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh.

The group was one of two hosts and organizers of the Global Great Lakes Conference held here last week. She indicated that she was encouraged by the welcome remarks and discussion between the County Executive and Mayor as well as the many panel discussions and plenary sessions throughout the day of events. “It is important to have conversations about diversity and to build alliances and collaborations. And it is essential that the Black and immigrants communities begin engaging,” she said.

“It is exciting to be hosting this event in Pittsburgh,” said Thomas Buell Jr., Director of Marketing and the Study Pittsburgh Initiative at GlobalPittsburgh, co-host of the conference. This event allowed participants to share best practices in this field, and also to map out future strategies for making sure everyone in our cities benefits from the positive impact of international newcomers.”

Aiming to build on the success of the initial Global Great Lakes Conference that convened in Detroit last year, Buell said the desire of the 2014 conference was to provide an opportunity for Pittsburgh once again to showcase its economic transformation and revitalization, and to highlight the numerous efforts to attract immigrants to the region and to engage them once they arrive.

Participants consisting of regional leaders and nationally-recognized authorities representing cities and organizations in the upper Midwest and Northeast regions dealt with conference topics that included; African-America Communities and Immigration-New Perspectives, Engaging Ethnic Media in Your Home Market, Skilled Immigrant Integration: Promising Practices and Effective Implementation, Global Great Lakes Network and Federal Immigration Reform, Strategies and Tactics to Build an African-

American and Immigrant Alliance, International Student Retention, Micro-Enterprise Program in the Heartland, Midwest Consortium on Immigration Research, Origin Stories—How to Start a Local Economic Development Effort, Corporate Engagement, and Changing Community Perspectives—the Story of Nashville.

A Nigerian born immigrant living in the United States since the age of 14, Tolu Olubunmi, the executive director of the non-profit group, Welcome.us has a strong belief that there is a huge economic benefit to this country if we find unity and ways to align. “We are a nation fueled by immigrants from around the world, who have all been united by the common cause of building a better life for ourselves and families,” she said.

Olubunmi and her session partners Darrin M. Redus, president and CEO of MainStreet Advisors and Christina Greer, PhD, professor of Political Science at Fordham University concur that it is imperative to build strong bridges and to enlighten one another. An important factor brought out in the Strategies and Tactics to Build an African-American and Immigrant Alliance session was that not all Blacks are the same. “We vary in class, religion and we were not all slaves,” pointed out Greer noting that there are Black-Americans, African-Americans and Caribbean-Americans in the U.S.

Toting the theme, “Promoting immigration as an economic development opportunity” the conference was convened by the Global Great Lakes Network. The group membership describes its self as a regional economic and community development initiative and their supporters that seek to create economic growth, job creation and prosperity by attracting, retaining and empowering immigrants. Its mission is to engage in activities that strengthen the work, maximize the impact, and sustain the efforts of its individual regional members. The network is comprised of 21 organizations including GlobalPittsburgh and Vibrant Pittsburgh.

For the past 55 years, GlobalPittsburgh has been bringing together globally-minded people in the Pittsburgh region through membership activities and hosting programs. As a non-profit organization it helps universities and English Language programs attract international students, and coordinate visits for international delegations through the U.S. Department of State. It has a network of over 500 members, volunteers, and citizen diplomats who ensure that visiting leaders’ and students’ time in the Greater Pittsburgh region provides value to all members of the community. As a charter member of the Washington, DC-based Global Ties U.S. (formerly NCIV) GlobalPittsburgh is the State Department’s designated regional service provider for the International Visitor Leadership Program and other government-sponsored international exchange programs.

The mission of Vibrant Pittsburgh is to embrace inclusion, ensure the Pittsburgh region’s growth by attracting, retaining and elevating a diversity of talent and promote the region nationally and internationally as a diverse, welcoming region of opportunities. The group believes that a diverse workforce is essential to the ongoing economic vitality of the Greater Pittsburgh region and that attracting, retaining, elevating and educating people of all backgrounds, and colors including New Americans, and creating an environment that is inclusive and welcoming is a must.

Pleased with the outcomes of the conference and encouraging participants to continue dialoging and striving to make their cities diverse and to bring in a talented workforce, both Harrington and Buell suggest that locally people visit their websites at <http://www.vibrantpittsburgh.org> and <http://www.globalpittsburgh.org>. to get involved.