

WELCOMING ECONOMIES

convening

SYRACUSE, NY



OCT. 23-24, 2017

building bridges for economic inclusion



Global Network

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WELCOME TO SYRACUSE

The Welcoming Economies Convening is engaging, insightful, and, most importantly, designed to connect you with peers across the Rust Belt. We will weave together cutting-edge policies, successful programs, innovative ideas, and a network of trailblazers in the emerging field of immigrant economic development.

We are so pleased that you are here in Syracuse with us for our fifth-annual Convening.

The Convening offers many opportunities to exchange and learn about the growing energy and momentum of local initiatives, and perhaps plan to begin or grow one in your own community.

This year's local host, CenterState CEO, is an independent and forward-thinking economic development strategist, business leadership organization, and chamber of commerce dedicated to the success of its members and the prosperity of the Syracuse region. Sustainable growth is happening as Syracuse opens up avenues to economic participation, creating a more welcoming economy for all. Together, the City of Syracuse, CenterState CEO, and other community partners are collaborating on creating impactful programs that advance opportunities for immigrants.

— Welcoming Economies Global Network

“Rust Belt leaders, like CenterState CEO, are spearheading regional immigrant and refugee integration and economic development initiatives . . . This movement is rapidly expanding and, now in our fifth year, we are excited to see how far we have come.”

— Steve Tobocman, Director of Global Detroit and Co-Chair of the Welcoming Economies Global Network Steering Committee



things to do and see in Syracuse

www.visitsyracuse.com and
www.downtownsyracuse.com

On behalf of CenterState CEO, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone attending the Welcoming Economies Convening to Syracuse, New York.

The Welcoming Economies Convening brings a wide range of leaders together to exchange ideas and craft strategies in order to better harness the economic, social, and cultural power of New Americans.

Syracuse has a rich history of welcoming people to our community from across the globe. Historically it was our Irish, German, and Italian immigrants who helped establish Central New York as a bustling hub of commerce, building the Erie Canal and working the salt mines that shaped our economic foundation.

Today, in Onondaga County, where Syracuse is located, more than 1,000 refugees are resettled annually, the highest per-capita rate in the state and the third-highest rate in the nation. These refugees and immigrants are helping our economy rebound. New Americans are filling hiring needs, helping Syracuse employers grow and respond to a changing economy. They are harnessing their entrepreneurial spirits, starting businesses that are creating jobs, and making our urban cores more vibrant. As they experience success in the economy they help stabilize neighborhoods by purchasing homes, ultimately reducing vacancy rates and blight. Also, as Central New York business leaders seek to participate in global markets and compete with other regions for talent, the rich cultural diversity created by refugees and immigrants helps foster global fluency and connections, resulting in a competitive advantage for the region.

Over the next few days thought leaders from across the country will come together to share experiences and best practices, and to develop new ways to better welcome new Americans and create thriving, progressive communities. I hope you enjoy your time in Syracuse and learn more about our rich heritage and horizon-looking approaches, and how we can work together to empower immigrant communities.

Thank you for the incredibly important work you do, and welcome to Syracuse.

Sincerely,



Robert Simpson
President and CEO
CenterState CEO

YOUR HOSTS



WELCOMING ECONOMIES GLOBAL NETWORK

Drawing on the lessons of the Rust Belt, the Welcoming Economies Global Network (WE Global) is a group of regional economic development initiatives working to tap into the economic development opportunities created by immigrants across a 10-state region (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, NY, OH, PA, WI). The network is designed to strengthen the work, maximize the impact, and sustain the efforts of individual local initiatives that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities as valued contributors to local economies. WE Global is a project of Welcoming America in partnership with Global Detroit.

WELCOMING
AMERICA



BUILDING A NATION OF NEIGHBORS

WELCOMING AMERICA

Welcoming America leads a movement of inclusive communities becoming more prosperous by making everyone feel like they belong. Welcoming America believes that all people, including immigrants, should be valued contributors and are vital to the success of both our communities and our shared future. Welcoming America provides the inspiration and foundation for the growing welcoming movement, bringing together an innovative and growing network of local governments and nonprofits, and connecting them to their peers and to what works.



GLOBAL DETROIT

Global Detroit is revitalizing Metro Detroit's economy by mobilizing its immigrant potential. Global Detroit is nationally recognized as an innovator and expert in leveraging international talent to fill regional businesses' unmet talent needs, catalyzing the growth and development of immigrant entrepreneurs, revitalizing neighborhoods, and building a global region with competitive advantages in job creation, business growth, and community development.



**CENTERSTATE
CORPORATION FOR
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

CENTERSTATE CORPORATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

CenterState CEO is an independent and forward-thinking economic development strategist, business leadership organization and chamber of commerce dedicated to the success of its members and the prosperity of the region. The CenterState CEO Economic Inclusion team is dedicated to creating thriving communities through increased prosperity for all Central New York residents.

STORIES OF IMPACT

"I founded the New American Women's Empowerment Group because the challenges I faced as a refugee and as a woman in Syracuse are not unique. NAWE is pushing our new community members to do more. The thousands of refugees who've come here are helping the city regrow and filling jobs that have gone unfilled, creating businesses, and earning degrees, and we are helping others achieve the same. It takes a community supporting each other to be successful."



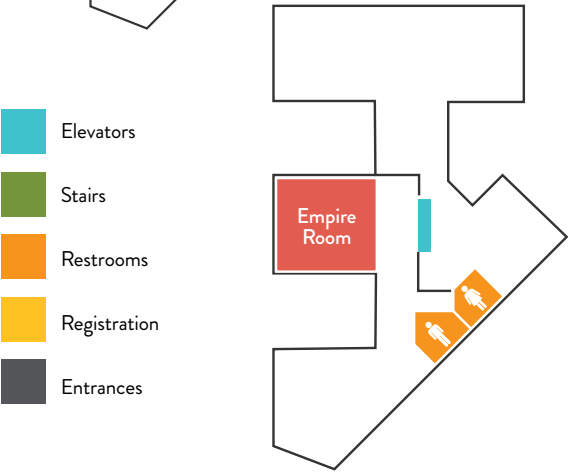
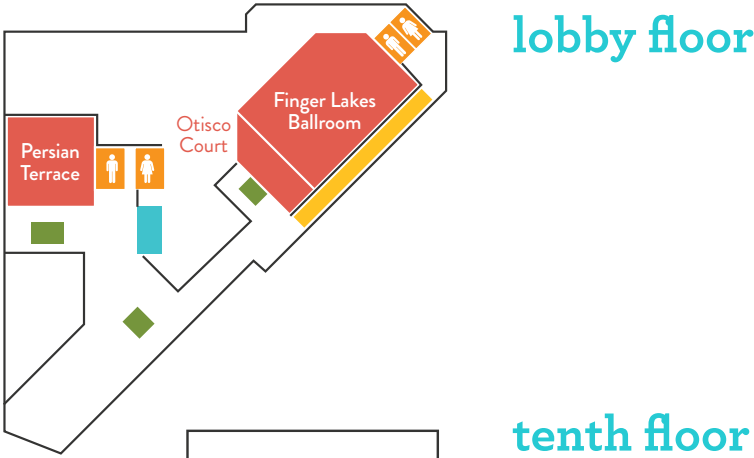
— Khadijo Abdulkadir, Founder, New American Women's Empowerment Group






New American Women's Empowerment Group builds a supportive community for New American women to empower them in education, employment, and other sectors.

> Metro Syracuse has experienced depopulation for decades but from 2000–2014, this trend reversed to a 1.8% increase in overall population thanks to new Americans putting down roots in the city, starting businesses, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

The statistics included in the Stories of Impact are from New American Economy's report "New Americans in Buffalo and Syracuse."

MAPS



-  Elevators
-  Stairs
-  Restrooms
-  Registration
-  Entrances

AGENDA

MONDAY, OCT. 23, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. STICKLEY FURNITURE COMPANY TOUR

Founded by the sons of German immigrants in 1900, Stickley has maintained its reputation as one of the finest quality and highly regarded furniture manufacturers in the world. Since Alfred Audi purchased Stickley in 1974, he has continued to maintain the company's commitment to manufacture furniture with honor, integrity, and pride, relying on the workmanship and diligence of its workforce that is made up primarily of employees from the local refugee community. The factory tour will trace the company's history and the role that new Americans and an inclusive workforce have played in their growth and success.

1:30 – 4 p.m. COMMUNITY TOURS

- Building Community Amidst Constant Change: The Realities of Northside Micro-Neighborhoods
- Food on the Northside: The Language that Needs No Translation
- Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces for Faith: The Journey of Converting a Historic Church into a Welcoming Mosque

2 – 4 p.m. CERTIFIED WELCOMING OFFICE HOURS

Meet outside of Canandaigua Room — Ground floor for your scheduled session.

Melissa Bertolo, Certified Welcoming Manager, Welcoming America

Welcoming America's new Certified Welcoming program offers the opportunity for communities to experience a comprehensive evaluation of current work and a chance to formally set themselves apart as leaders in the movement. Sit down with an expert to ask questions, strategize, and more.

**Office hours are also available Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 10–10:30 a.m., 12–3 p.m., and 4:30–5 p.m.*

5 – 6 p.m. IGNITE TALKS

Sky Armory, 351 S. Clinton Street

Local, regional, and WE Global member organizations will present for five minutes each on an innovation they are working on. The fast-paced sessions are dynamic, giving the audience a snapshot of ideas that they could apply in their own communities. The session is co-emceed by Nicole Watts of HopePrint and Joe Cimperman of Global Cleveland, highlighting speakers in Syracuse and across the WE Global Network.

6–8 p.m.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Sky Armory, 351 S. Clinton Street

Convening opening with welcome remarks from WE Global, Adam Sudmann of My Lucky Tummy, and J. Ryan McMahon, II, Chairman of the Onondaga County Legislature.

We are excited to collaborate with My Lucky Tummy for the reception, a pop-up international food court that celebrates the diversity of and brings attention to the cuisines of Syracuse's large refugee community. Founder Adam Sudmann, a graduate of CenterState CEO's Up Start program as well as the program manager of Syracuse's With Love restaurant incubator, launched My Lucky Tummy in 2014.

The Welcome Reception will feature cuisines of Burma, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria, all crafted by a few of the refugees that call Syracuse home.

STORIES OF IMPACT

“My wife Thaw and I started Aloha because we wanted to give people a taste of the world that they may have only seen on a map. Our menu incorporates home cooking from Burma, dynamic and diverse flavors from Japan, and unique-tasting food from Hawaii. We want to share our story with the people of Syracuse, and we thought the best way to convey their journey, and the most delicious way, was to give people a taste.”



— Zaw Nyein, Up Start graduate and founder of Aloha Japanese Bento Express

CenterState CEO's Up Start program helps develop businesses within low-income neighborhoods and underrepresented communities. In 2016-2017, Up Start launched and grew over 15 businesses and graduated over 80 entrepreneurs from the Start It! Business Basics course.

> In the Syracuse metro area, 1,681 immigrants are self-employed, and their businesses generated \$22.3M in business income in 2014.

AT A GLANCE TUESDAY, OCT. 24, 2017

8–9 a.m.

Registration: *Outside Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level*

Networking Breakfast: *Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level*

9–10 a.m.

OPENING PLENARY

Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level

Keynote Address: Ali Noorani, National Immigration Forum

10–10:30 a.m.

BREAK WITH BOOK SIGNING

Outside Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level

There Goes the Neighborhood by Ali Noorani

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

LESSONS LEARNED FROM CANADA: HOW TO KICKSTART EMPLOYER ACTION

Canandaigua Room — Ground floor

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM: HELPING IMMIGRANT FOUNDERS CREATE AMERICAN JOBS

Conesus Room — Ground floor

CAPACITY BUILDING LEARNING CIRCLES

Empire Room — 10th floor

HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR STATE TO CREATE SKILLED IMMIGRANT OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING GUIDES

Hemlock Room — Ground floor

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING CASE STUDY: PERSPECTIVES FROM ORGANIZERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE NEAR WESTSIDE PEACEMAKING PROJECT

Otisco Court — Lobby level

12–1 p.m.

LUNCH

Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level

1–2:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

INNOVATIONS IN IMMIGRANT HOMEOWNERSHIP

Otisco Court — Lobby level

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS & CHAMBERS

Conesus Room — Ground floor

FOSTERING IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Empire Room – 10th floor

WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

Hemlock Room – Ground floor

MEASURING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT: USING ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TO SHOW THE LOCAL BENEFITS

Canandaigua Room – Ground floor

2:15–3 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK AND NETWORKING

Outside Finger Lakes Ballroom – Lobby level

3–4:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3

CONTRADICTING THE NARRATIVE: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS TO THE GREAT LAKES ECONOMY

Otisco Court – Lobby level

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR NEW AMERICANS: BUILDING A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE THROUGH IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Canandaigua Room – Ground floor

WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS URBAN–RURAL DIVIDES: HOW ONE ORGANIZATION SHARED ITS INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Conesus Room – Ground floor

POSITIVE MESSAGING IN TURBULENT TIMES

Empire Room – 10th floor

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN USING WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) FUNDS TO SERVE IMMIGRANTS

Hemlock Room – Ground floor

4:30–5:15 p.m.

CLOSING PLENARY

Finger Lakes Ballroom – Lobby level

Mayor Stephanie Miner, City of Syracuse

Keynote: John Dau, John Dau Foundation

5:15–6:30 p.m.

RECEPTION

Persian Terrace – Lobby level

9 a.m.

OPENING PLENARY

Finger Lakes Ballroom – Lobby level

WELCOME TO SYRACUSE

- Rob Simpson, CenterState CEO
- Dr. Danielle Laraque-Arena, SUNY Upstate Medical University

GREETINGS FROM THE WELCOMING ECONOMIES GLOBAL NETWORK

- Rachel Peric, Welcoming America
- Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit

REPORT RELEASE: HOW IMMIGRANTS ARE REVIVING THE GREAT LAKES REGION

- Kate Brick, New American Economy

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- Ali Noorani, National Immigration Forum

New Americans and a New Direction

The Role of Immigrants in the Great Lakes Region's Revitalization

The fate of U.S. workers in the Great Lakes region has become a centerpiece of the national conversation on the economy, with politicians arguing that immigrants are to blame for the region's woes. This new report from New American Economy and the Great Lakes Metro Chamber Coalition shows that immigrants are, in fact, part of the solution. Launched at the 2017 Welcoming Economies Convening, the report quantifies how immigrants are revitalizing and strengthening industries like manufacturing and healthcare; offsetting decades of population decline; and reinvigorating local economies with new businesses that employ U.S.-born workers, an increased tax base, and consumer spending that drives local growth. Convening participants, who hail from cities across the Great Lakes region and see immigrants' contributions firsthand, can use the report's findings to advocate for inclusive policies to continue the region's economic revival.

**New
American
Economy**

10–10:30 a.m.

BREAK WITH BOOK SIGNING

Outside Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level

There Goes the Neighborhood by Ali Noorani

Certified Welcoming Office Hours

**Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 10–10:30 a.m.,
12–3 p.m., and 4:30–5 p.m.**

Melissa Bertolo, Certified Welcoming Manager, Welcoming America

Welcoming America's new Certified Welcoming program offers the opportunity for communities to experience a comprehensive evaluation of current work and a chance to formally set themselves apart as leaders in the movement. Sit down with an expert to ask questions, strategize, and more.

Sign up for a 15-minute session at the registration table. Meet outside of Finger Lakes Ballroom — Ground floor for your scheduled session.

STORIES OF IMPACT

"I love cooking and the feeling from serving people food, knowing that they are happy because of what I created for them. I knew how to cook



many foods already, but at the Catholic Charities' Culinary Arts for Self-Sufficiency program, I learned about food safety and American recipes. I will use what I've learned to one day open an Ethiopian restaurant in Syracuse."

*— Sara Berhe, graduate, CASS program and employee,
Loretto Health and Rehabilitation*

Catholic Charities' Culinary Arts for Self-Sufficiency program provides culinary training needed for employment for refugees and other individuals with high barriers to employment.

> In 2014, immigrants in metro Syracuse preserved or created an estimated 1,877 local manufacturing jobs that would have vanished or moved elsewhere.

AGENDA **TUESDAY, OCT. 24** (cont.)

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION #1



LESSONS LEARNED FROM CANADA: HOW TO KICK-START EMPLOYER ACTION

Canandaigua Room – Ground floor

In this session, you will learn about Canada's business and community leaders' response to the global refugee crisis, the Syrian Refugees Jobs Agenda Roundtable, and practical strategies to create your own roundtable to kick-start employer action for refugee and immigrant economic integration in your area. The session will include time for you to discuss one outcome in detail, compare and contrast with initiatives in your region in the United States, and consider how you could apply the strategies presented.

- Devon Franklin, Hire Immigrants



GLOBAL ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM: HELPING IMMIGRANT FOUNDERS CREATE AMERICAN JOBS

Conesus Room – Ground floor

The Trump Administration pause of the proposed International Entrepreneurs Rule to allow an alternative to the startup visa has given new emphasis to the Global Entrepreneurs in Residence (GEIR) program to pair international entrepreneurs with universities to create both local businesses and entrepreneurship opportunities. This session will include national experts, as well as the experience of one WE Global member on how these programs operate, what they bring to a local entrepreneurial ecosystem, and what local communities should consider when contemplating such an endeavor.

- Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit (Moderator)
- Betsy Cohen, St. Louis Mosaic Project
- Craig Montuori, Global EIR
- Stephen Yale-Loehr, Cornell Law School



CAPACITY BUILDING LEARNING CIRCLES

Empire Room – 10th floor

Learn from your colleagues and share your own wisdom through this series of speed roundtable conversations that will highlight innovative practices to build your organization's capacity and impact. Topics will include: (a) Volunteer Management; (b) Communications; (c) Partnerships; (d) Evaluation and Data; (e) Supporting refugee resettlement organizations (f) Other topics you'd like to bring.

Table facilitators:

- Rich André, New American Economy

- Paul Costigan, International Institute of St. Louis
- Terri Morris Downs, Immigrant Welcome Center
- Monica Fuentes, Welcoming America
- Sloan Herrick, Global Detroit
- Susan Downs-Karkos, Welcoming America



HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR STATE TO CREATE SKILLED IMMIGRANT OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING GUIDES

Hemlock Room — Ground floor

How can my state create skilled immigrant occupational licensing guides? Are they only for professional jobs? How do we know which occupations to start with? Why are they even necessary? Learn the answers to these and other questions about the importance of occupational licensing guides.

- Karen Phillippi, Michigan Office for New Americans (Moderator)
- Katherine Gebremedhin, WES Global Talent Bridge
- Allie Levinsky, Upwardly Global
- Mike Zimmer, State of Michigan



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING CASE STUDY: PERSPECTIVES FROM ORGANIZERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE NEAR WESTSIDE PEACEMAKING PROJECT

Otisco Court — Lobby level

Effective community organizing models that continue to spur new projects and initiatives rely on empowering community members to take ownership and lead. This panel takes a deep dive into the Peacemaking Center's approach in Syracuse's Near Westside neighborhood, as community members and organizers share their perspectives on the process, including best practices and obstacles. Learn how to apply this and other organizing models in your own community.

- Leah Russell, Center for Court Innovation, Near Westside Peacemaking Project (Moderator)
- Kerry Correa, Community Impact Team, Near Westside Peacemaking Project
- Shawn Pope, Community Impact Team & Peacemaker, Near Westside Peacemaking Project
- Triana Reese, Community Impact Team, Near Westside Peacemaking Project

SESSION KEY



Entrepreneurship
and Business



Social Cohesion
and Equity



Business
Engagement



Workforce
Development



Neighborhood
Development



Organizational
Capacity Building

AGENDA TUESDAY, OCT. 24 (cont.)

12–1 p.m.

LUNCH

Finger Lakes Ballroom – Lobby level

1–2:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2



INNOVATIONS IN IMMIGRANT HOMEOWNERSHIP

Otisco Court – Lobby level

Homeownership can be a means to upward mobility and wealth creation, as well as community safety and neighborhood revitalization. Immigrants, however, face cultural, linguistic, and financial obstacles to homeownership. Learn how these local government and nonprofit leaders are creating new opportunities for immigrants to purchase houses.

- Beth Szurpicki, Global Detroit (Moderator)
- Anthony Bango, Metro West CDC
- Amanda Pascall, Home Headquarters



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS & CHAMBERS

Conesus Room – Ground floor

What are some effective strategies for forming partnerships between immigrant inclusion and economic development players? How should immigrant service providers prepare for productive conversations with their local Chamber of Commerce? This workshop will guide participants through a messaging and strategy framework to develop talking points and plan for future collaborations. Participants will analyze a dialogue for best practices and then apply those techniques to their own action plans.

- Betsy Cohen, St. Louis Mosaic Project
- Nicole Pumphrey, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians



FOSTERING IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Empire Room – 10th floor

This session will explore how cities are creating programs to more deeply engage immigrants in civic life. Come learn the keys to successfully opening up local government to the immigrant community and consider how such a leadership development approach might be adapted to your own context.

- Kunchok Dolma, New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Shanna Singh Huey, Think Tennessee



WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

Hemlock Room — Ground floor

The Workforce Innovations at the State and Local Level Panel will discuss policies and practices that identify the skills and potential contributions of New Americans and seek to recognize them (e.g. via credentialing) and/or cultivate them (e.g. via innovative training/programming). The panel will explore what's working in specific states and cities; identify emerging policy innovations within different states; and identify ways that audience members can pursue best practices and innovative policies at home.

- Eva Hassett, International Institute of Buffalo (Moderator)
- Paul Gollash, Voxy
- Melinda Mack, The New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals
- José Ramón Fernández-Peña, Welcome Back Initiative Director

Thank you to CPS Recruitment, Inc. for sponsoring this session.



MEASURING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT: USING ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TO SHOW THE LOCAL BENEFITS

Canandaigua Room — Ground floor

The debate on resettling refugees has gripped local and national politics. There are important issues about our national character as a place of refuge, but there also are local economic impacts. Hear the latest on both national and local research on the economic impact of refugees and how to customize those facts for your own community.

- Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit (Moderator)
- Liz Gerber, University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy
- David Dyssegaard Kallick, Fiscal Policy Institute
- Andrew Lim, New American Economy
- Guadalupe Velasquez, City of Columbus

2:15 – 3 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK AND NETWORKING

Outside Finger Lakes Ballroom — Lobby level

SESSION KEY



Entrepreneurship
and Business



Social Cohesion
and Equity



Business
Engagement



Workforce
Development



Neighborhood
Development



Organizational
Capacity Building

AGENDA **TUESDAY, OCT. 24** (cont.)

3 – 4:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3



CONTRADICTING THE NARRATIVE: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS TO THE GREAT LAKES ECONOMY

Otisco Court – Lobby level

The fate of U.S. workers in the Great Lakes region has become a centerpiece of the national conversation on the economy. Politicians have capitalized on economic frustrations, arguing that immigrants are to blame for the region's woes. The reality, however, is that far from being the cause of its economic struggles, immigration may in fact provide one of the most promising solutions to it. This session will dive into the findings of a new report by New American Economy and the Great Lakes Metro Chamber Coalition that uses data to show how immigrants are revitalizing and strengthening industries like manufacturing and healthcare; offsetting decades of population decline; and reinvigorating local economies with new businesses, an increased tax base, and consumer spending that drives local growth.

- Rich André, New American Economy
- Brandon Mendoza, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce



THE BUSINESS CASE FOR NEW AMERICANS: BUILDING A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE THROUGH IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Canandaigua Room – Ground floor

From healthcare to manufacturing to hospitality technology, U.S. employers rely on immigrants and refugees to meet their workforce needs across a wide continuum of job types and skill levels. We will talk to a group of employers from different industries who have embraced New Americans within their workforce. We'll learn from them about how and why they engaged international populations in the first place; the benefits and challenges of having them in their companies; and lessons learned about how to best incorporate New Americans onto the job site. We'll also explore how employers might emerge as advocates of Welcoming Economies at the local, state, and national level.

- David DiMaggio, CASE Center (Moderator)
- David Allen, Anaren
- Andrea Godfread-Brown, Brown & Palumbo, PLLC
- Mehudin Krdzic, Stickley Furniture

Thank you to CPS Recruitment, Inc. for sponsoring this session.



WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS URBAN–RURAL DIVIDES: HOW ONE ORGANIZATION SHARED ITS INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Conesus Room — Ground floor

Presented with an opportunity to share their entrepreneurship model across the state of Minnesota, the Twin Cities-based nonprofit Neighborhood Development Center began partnering with rural communities. The Initiative Foundation serves as a key partner in adapting and adopting the NDC model in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and future locations. Come learn from both organizations' experiences and consider how you could apply similar thinking to develop partnerships in your region.

- Christina Pope, Welcoming America (Moderator)
- Mihailo Temali, Neighborhood Development Centers
- Jeff Wig, Initiative Foundation



POSITIVE MESSAGING IN TURBULENT TIMES

Empire Room — 10th floor

Social anxieties and polarization are arguably at record highs in our communities, and it's more challenging than ever to communicate a positive message that resonates with audiences across a diverse political spectrum. Yet we know that for our communities to be truly welcoming, it's important that we continue to reach out and engage longer-term, receiving community members. This communications workshop from Welcoming America will review positive communications strategies that work. Interactive exercises will provide participants with an opportunity to practice communications in tough situations and will allow for audience sharing and problem solving.

- Susan Downs-Karkos, Welcoming America
- Rachel Peric, Welcoming America



AGENDA TUESDAY, OCT. 24 (cont.)



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN USING WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) FUNDS TO SERVE IMMIGRANTS

Hemlock Room – Ground floor

How can a state or locality actually use WIOA funding to support immigrants? How would my organization access funding from WIOA? Join us for a refresher on WIOA, as well as to hear how Michigan and St. Louis are using WIOA funding for creative programming efforts. Please also come to share how your state or locality is using WIOA funding.

- Karen Phillippi, Michigan Office for New Americans (Moderator)
- Paul Costigan, International Institute of St. Louis
- Annie Fenton, Michigan International Talent Solutions
- Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, National Skills Coalition

4:30 – 5:15 p.m. CLOSING PLENARY

Finger Lakes Ballroom – Lobby level

SPOTLIGHT ON SYRACUSE

- Haji Adan, Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE)
- Mayor Stephanie Miner, City of Syracuse

KEYNOTE

- John Dau, John Dau Foundation

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR NEW YORK

- Regrow Upstate New York Coalition

CALL TO ACTION

- Christina Pope, Welcoming America
- Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit

5:15 – 6:30 p.m. RECEPTION

Persian Terrace – Lobby level

KEYNOTE

John Dau President, John Dau Foundation



John Dau is the president and founder of the John Dau Foundation, an organization that builds and runs medical clinics, trains community health workers, and administers nutritional programs specifically targeting children and women in several villages in the former Duk County, the same county as his home village. Since immigrating to the United States in 2001 after spending nine years in a refugee camp in Kenya, John earned his Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees from Syracuse University and became a social entrepreneur, founding four nonprofits to bring hope and peace to people of his home South Sudan.

John's life is one of courage, resilience and leadership, one that started when his home village of Duk Payuel fell under attack when he was 13. Over the next five years John experienced challenges and adversities that most people couldn't imagine. By the time John led 800 "Lost Boys" into the Kakuma refugee Camp in Kenya, he had seen over 9,000 of his fellow lost boys die at the hands of rebels and had marched hundreds of miles from home. It is his memory of his brothers and his past that has motivated him to give back to his community and dedicate his life to being a social entrepreneur.

In addition to founding several nonprofits, John was featured as the subject of the award-winning "God Grew Tired of Us" documentary and has received over 40 prestigious awards including the National Geographic Emerging Explorers Award and the World Economic Forum Young Global Leader Award.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Maud came to the United States with a nursing background and a great desire to step into her destiny. Today, she is a certified nursing assistant at St. Camillus, and is working daily towards her goal of raising a future doctor.



"It's so difficult being in America where you don't have your parents. It's like being in 'No Man's Land,' and you don't have a job. Now, I feel independent."

—Maud Dadzie

Maud graduated from SUNY EOC's "Health Train" initiative powered by Work Train. Since 2014, 395 Work Train candidates have been hired by employers—an 88% job placement rate.

> Foreign-born residents contributed \$1.7B to the GDP of metro Syracuse.

KEYNOTE

Ali Noorani

Executive Director, National Immigration Forum



Ali Noorani is Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum, an advocacy organization promoting the value of immigrants and immigration. Growing up in California as the son of Pakistani immigrants, Ali quickly learned how to forge alliances among people of wide-ranging backgrounds, a skill that has served him extraordinarily well as one of the nation's most innovative coalition builders.

Prior to joining the Forum, Ali was executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, and he has served in leadership roles within public health and environmental organizations.

In 2015, Ali was named a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He holds a Master's in Public Health from Boston University and is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. Ali lives in Washington, D.C., and is the author of "There Goes the Neighborhood: How Communities Overcome Prejudice and Meet the Challenge of American Immigration" (Prometheus, April 2017).

STORIES OF IMPACT

"I moved into a house renovated by immigrants and refugees, and it's inspiring to see neighbors take care of each other when someone new comes. I have been giving back, too; three nights a week I teach English to refugee kids at the North Side Learning Center and volunteer my time at two other non-profits. I am working hard in school to become a human rights lawyer and advocate for refugees whose voices are silenced. My mom raised me to have goals, and that's how I've lived my life."

—Hassina Adams, Student

Syracuse's northside neighborhood is anchored by its North Side Learning Center, which is committed to self-sufficiency and self-actualization through education and neighborhood development.

> Immigration to metro Syracuse increased the total housing value in the region by \$406.5M (2000-2014)

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