



November 19 • 2022

IES REMEMBERED

The 15th Annual National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit

FFA Enrichment Center • DMACC Ankeny Campus



A Letter from IES Planning Team

Dear IES Sponsors, Supporters, and Participants,

Thank you for being part of the 2022 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES) on November 19, 2022.

We're so grateful to be able to resume a full conference again this year and be together in one building to share, learn and grow together. This past year has been challenging for many businesses, and IES is the special place that provides immigrant business owners and those new to business the supports they need.

IES recognizes and celebrates the contribution of immigrants and their daily lives in this country. In all, we served about 600 attendees, conducted 20 workshop sessions, and had 22 exhibit booths where business people from all over the state and surrounding states were able to connect throughout the day.

To the sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers: we are grateful for your generous support! Your partnership supercharges the growth of immigrant-owned businesses. It is so inspiring to see the community come together for an event that offers people the chance to explore the American Dream and create their own version of that in their lives.

To our dedicated volunteers: thank you for your hard work and continued efforts to make the event more impactful each year.

My sincerest gratitude for each one of you and your part in pushing IES forward. I cherish that IES is an active community with diverse talents, passions, and experiences. I look forward to your continued participation in 2023.

With warm gratitude,

Ying Sa
IES Co-Chair



Board Director Tribute:

Honoring **LORI BOSLEY** for her commitment to growing the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit
Service from 2008 - 2022



Over 600 Registrants from 49 Countries

ASIA

Afghanistan	Bangladesh	China	India
Japan	Myanmar	Philippines	
South Korea	Singapore	Taiwan	Thailand
Turkmenistan	Vietnam		

AFRICA

Benin	Burundi	Chad	
Democratic Republic of the Congo			Ghana
Kenya	Mali	Niger	Nigeria
South Sudan	Sudan	Togo	Uganda

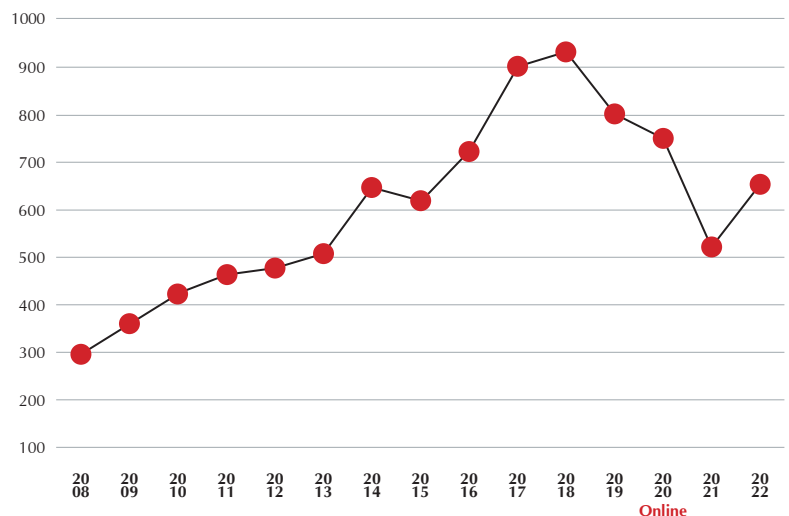
AMERICA

Brazil	Canada	Colombia	Ecuador
El Salvador	Guatemala	Haiti	Mexico
Peru	United States	Uruguay	Venezuela

EUROPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina	France	Germany
Hungary	Kosovo	Netherlands
Russia	Slovakia	Spain
United Kingdom		Ukraine

NATIONAL IES PARTICIPANTS BY YEAR



Online

“

IES was a great event again this year. I find it inspiring to hear about all the things the immigrant entrepreneurs have accomplished.

– Ambassador Terry Branstad

As always, the committee put on another extremely successful Summit and we were happy to be a part of the day! The turnout was excellent and IEDA had a lot of fun talking to all the business owners and prospective owners throughout the day.

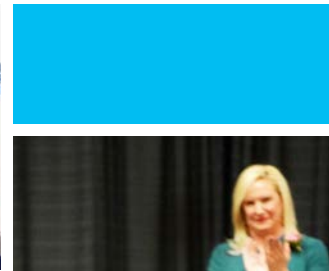
– Amy Kuhlert
Iowa Economic Development Authority

A very impressive summit that brought all aspects of business and entrepreneurship under one roof to share recent trends, resources, and innovation in business, specifically focused on immigrant and refugee owned businesses.

– Ahmed Agyeman, PhD
Evelyn K Davis Center for Working Families

The Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit is one of the most critical organizations in Iowa that provides an essential service to historically underserved parts of our community. Without the services and support that IES provides we would not have the diverse economic ecosystem that we have today. The support that Catherine and team provide to immigrants and partner organizations like MDC Iowa are truly game changers for us all. The annual summit with the invaluable workshops is the highlight of the year and we truly appreciate the huge effort that goes into preparing for this event every year.

– Tracy Jon Sargeant
Multicultural Development Center of Iowa



From left:
Ambassador Terry Branstad,
Jack Bosley,
Viridiana Ramirez,
Carlos Ramirez,
Tricia Gabriel and
Sam Gabriel



“

We were the honored recipients of the Outstanding Immigrant Business Award 2022. This recognition has meant the world to us since we feel that our sacrifices and hard work have been recognized. It's easy to work hard and not give yourself credit, but this award gave us some time to stop and acknowledge the path that we have walked to get where we are now. Attending the ceremony and hearing from other recipients gave us even more inspiration to continue working for our dreams and continue helping those around us. IES is an amazing event where we can all come together as Immigrants and help each other in our path to success.

– Viri and Carlos Ramirez, Cart Construction
IES 2022 Award Recipient

The Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit 2022 was indeed amazing, not only because Genesis Youth Foundation was honored for their work in the immigrant and refugee community, but because of the opportunities it gives the immigrant community as a whole. The summit allowed lights to shine on the great work immigrants are doing to better Iowa. It was an honor to be a part of the summit and we profoundly appreciate the leadership and the various planning committees of the event.

– Sam Gabriel, Genesis Youth Foundation
IES 2022 Award Recipient

IES is the missing piece that connects Iowa with the mosaic of beauty made up of immigrant entrepreneurs. The strength that comes with the mosaic is deeply rooted in the sound business ethics from the immigrants' culture. A foundation built upon hard work, integrity, honesty, and happiness. Iowa is fortunate to be the birth home of IES.

– Eric Idehen, OPX International LLC

We are so fortunate to be a part of the Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit. This is a world-class event, which is evident in the number of entrepreneurs and small business owners it has touched and the tremendous impact it has had on the state of Iowa.

– Lisa Shimkat
America's SBDC Iowa

Community CPA is a proud supporter of this great event for the last 15 years. Every year, our team gets a chance to experience serving the community through volunteering at the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit, and it is the highlight of the year for us. We look forward to the new connections and opportunities that will take place in 2023.

– Dan Kim
Community CPA

2022 IES Award Honorees

Immigrant Entrepreneur
Leadership Award:
Sam & Tricia Gabriel
Genesis Youth
Foundation

Outstanding Immigrant
Business Award:
Cart Construction
Carlos and Viri
Ramirez

Immigrant Spirit Award:
Mo Chang
Mos Tropical LLC

“

Contributing to the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit was a blessing. To be able to share about the mindset that it takes to continue to scale a business, the faith it takes to persevere in hard times, and the belief you must have in yourself to grow, no matter what that circumstance.

– Terrence Thames
Cocoa Creative Agency

I am an Iowan transplant and have been in business since 2018. While I have been a part of many communities, IES made me feel like I was in touch with my roots again. I immigrated here as a baby with my family during the Vietnam War. Working hard to achieve the American Dream has been ingrained into my bones. It felt so good to be among others who shared similar experiences of building our dreams here in America. I learned SO MUCH from the sessions I attended! More importantly, I felt proud to be who I am female and Vietnamese - because I felt so welcomed at IES.

– Yen Verhoeven
Qi Learning Research Group

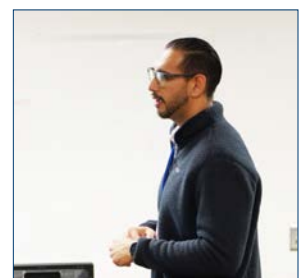
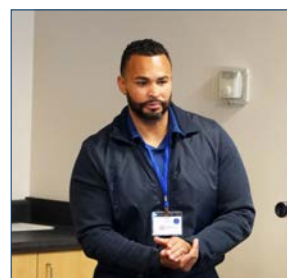
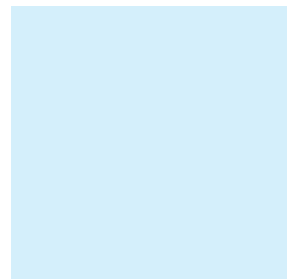
I was truly impressed with how you set your goal to leverage Immigrants through IES' event. Merci.

– Eddy Djagou
Djaagou-A Export LLC

I went to the IES 2021 and 2022. I love attending the events every time I attend, I tell myself I will be on that stage very soon.

– Shamekia Harston
Youthful Generations

Many thanks to our speakers!





Dady Mansaray, FitMeReach
2022 IES Underwriting Exposed Competition Winner

Underwriting Exposed \$5,000 Business Pitch



I attended the 15th Annual National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit 2022 and it was a real blast! The event was well organized and able to meet many individuals including honorable Governor Kim Reynolds. Awesome event, especially considering this was my first in-person pitch event ever in front of a large audience. As an Underwriting Exposed finalist, I believe this experience will help me a lot in my future pitch competition as well. Thank you all!

– Jahid Hasan, Tucana StarSoft, LLC

I really enjoyed the Summit it was so informative with sessions that fit businesses at different levels.

– Jack Chimbetete, Jack's Shack International LLC

The Summit has helped me a lot: to meet new people, see new opportunities and ones that are free, and gave me coaching now to work on. This has been helpful especially in [my] current personal crisis situation.

– Kiranmai Yarlagadda, Storyteller



Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES) thanks you for your generous support!

Presenting Sponsor



Partner Supporter



Entrepreneur Sponsor



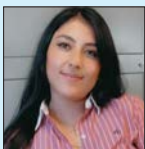
Business Advocate Sponsor



Hosts



Special thanks to our planning team for your great effort!
Together, we made this happen!



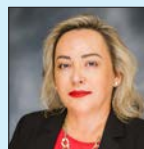
Rebeca Castillo



Igor Cavlovic



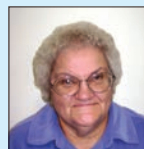
Fritz Craiger



Sema Didic



Neal Evans



Linda Haus



Ben Jung
Board Member



Dan Kim
Program Manager



Kiyo Matsuyama
Board Member



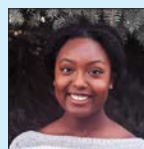
Leng Vong Reiff



Carlos Rios
Board Member



Ying Sa
Board Member



Joyce Toingar



Catherine Tran
Executive Director



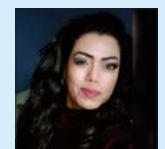
San Wong



Swallow Yan



Grace Yang
Designer



Zalma Zuniga