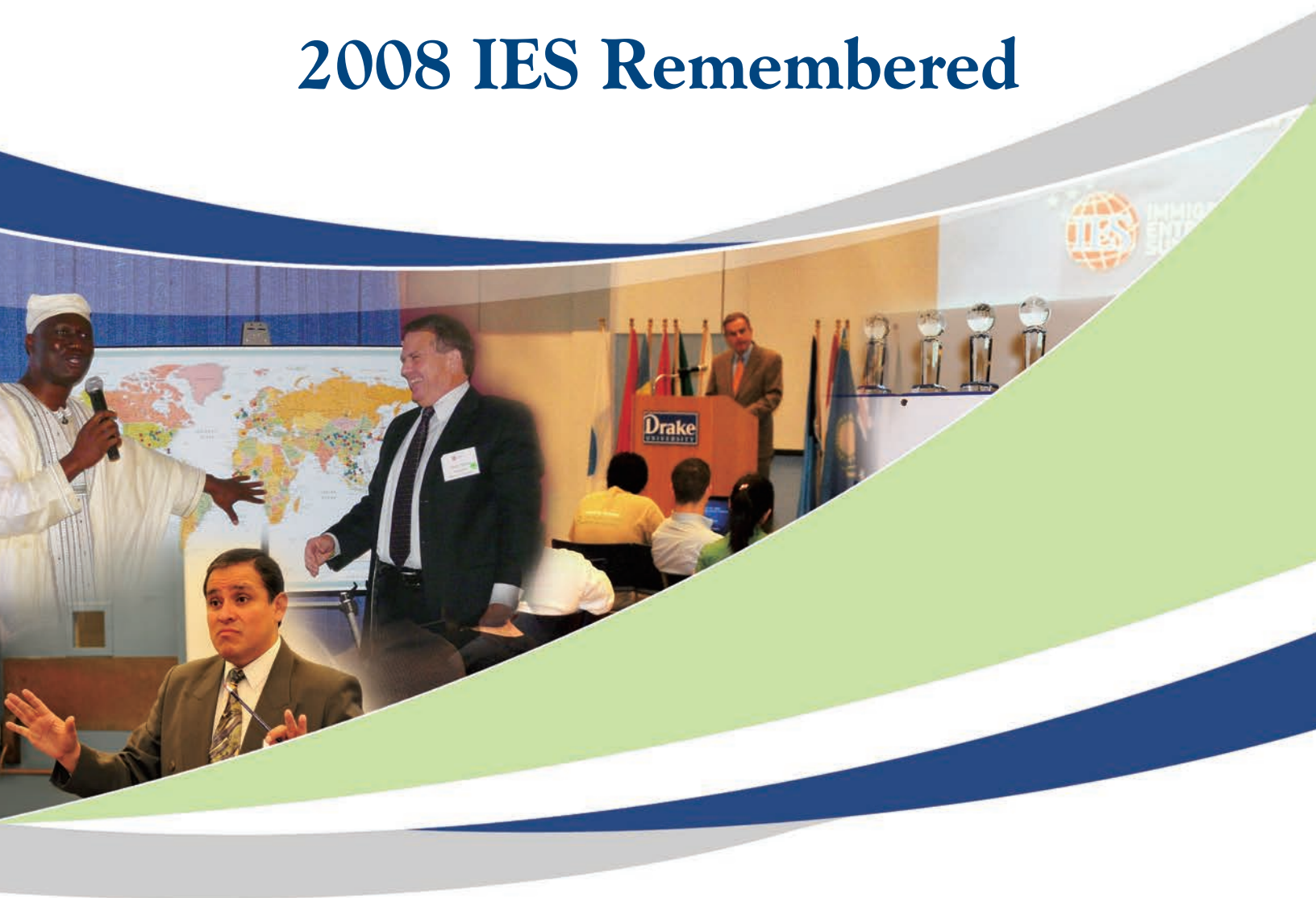




## 2008 IES Remembered



For Sponsorship and Summit information, please contact:  
Community CPA & Associates Inc  
3816 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312  
Tel: 515-288-3188 • Fax: 515-271-8889 • Email: [cpa@yingsacpa.com](mailto:cpa@yingsacpa.com)

# a letter from IES COMMITTEE

Dear IES Sponsors, Supporters, and Participants,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your hearty support of the 2008 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit. Like many immigrant businesses, our Summit began as a dream. Your involvement made this dream a reality and a success. The Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit has once again demonstrated the strength of our united immigrant business community.

The 2008 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit was a tremendous first event. The numbers speak for themselves. Approximately 300 people attended the Summit to learn from 12 entrepreneur workshops and to meet with the Summit's 16 exhibitors. Nearly 250 attendees enjoyed the Summit awards luncheon, an emotional and inspiring gathering that honored four outstanding immigrant business owners and supporters.

Seventy-eight percent of all attendees were immigrant businesses that represented more than 35 world nations. Businesses ranged from technology and financial service providers to grocery store owners and ethnic restaurant operators. These numbers testify to our success; however, that success could not have been achieved without the help of countless volunteers and the numerous hours they contributed to the event. These good friends are invaluable for achieving our goals in partnership.

As a token of our appreciation for your contribution to the success of the 2008 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit, we are enclosing a copy of the summary book 2008 IES Remembered. The pages in this book seek to recreate this one-of-a-kind event by telling the stories of those who came to share their experience and knowledge and the stories of the immigrant communities that have come to contribute so much to the state of Iowa.

These successes and contributions also speak to the opportunities and welcoming hands that immigrant entrepreneurs have found in their new communities. The Summit was a celebration of not just individual entrepreneurial achievement but also the collaborations and support of native-born Iowans that have been essential to the development and success of so many immigrant businesses. Together we will continue to make a difference!

Planning for the 2009 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit has already begun. After a year of hard work, we have learned many important lessons, developed numerous partnerships, and achieved important milestones that will contribute to our continued success. We look forward to seeing you at the IES 2009, and we hope we have earned your continued support.

Once again we believe we are contributing to the history of the Iowa immigrant community. As a field of opportunities, Iowa provides us all an unlimited future. We plant and we harvest, the fruit is rich, and our target is always our next goal.

Let us move!

Sincerely,



Ying Sa  
Community CPA & Associates Inc  
IES Host and Chair



Swallow Yan  
Chinese Association of Iowa  
IES Co-Chair



Max E. Cárdenas  
Empressa Group  
IES Co-Chair



There were approximately 300 attendees from 35 countries:

## Africa

Liberia  
Nigeria  
Sudan

## Americas

Brazil  
Canada  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
El Salvador  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Peru  
Puerto Rico  
USA  
Venezuela

## Asia

China  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Korea  
Laos  
Malaysia  
Nepal  
Singapour  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
Vietnam

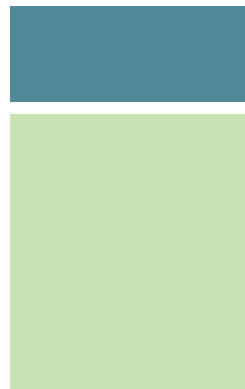
## Europe

Bosnia  
Czech Republic  
Germany  
Ireland  
Norway  
Russia  
Spain  
Tajkistan  
United Kingdom

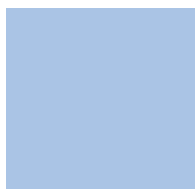
...from 35 COUNTRIES



# remembered..







November 15, 2008

Photography by Joesten Zhou and Grace Yang

# testimonials

Indeed, Ms. Sa, thank you for being our “leader” and visionary behind such important project.

I was humble to be there with our immigrant communities and honored to accept to me most important award in my lifetime...I was very touched by your speech and deep felt honesty in your voice when presenting and talking about us, immigrants making our marks on the history in the USA.

Thank you for letting me there! Thank you for letting me share my soul voice with others in the room. Thank you for giving me courage and inspiration to do more for our communities and our causes.

Ms. Sa, you are a true leader, visionary and inspiration to take this movement to a national level and I want and wish to share that same ideal with you.

Indeed we will keep in touch and work together on many other projects to come.

## **Abid Talic**

*Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award Honoree*

Thank you for organizing such a wonderful day, and for inviting Wells Fargo to participate. You should be very proud of your efforts, and of envisioning such an exciting and rewarding day for all of the participants. I have November 14, 2009 down on my calendar!

## **Kathy Murphy**

*Assistant Vice President  
Community Support  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*

Thank you so much for allowing NDC to participate in Saturday's Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit. The event far exceeded my expectations and I was thrilled to see such a high turn-out. It was exciting to see all the different faces of Iowa and learn more about everyone's community.

## **Heidi Wessels**

*Associate Director  
Neighborhood Development Corporation*

This weekend was tremendous success from my point of view. My bankers made some good contacts and we met some really great people.

Thank you so much for asking us to be a part of that event. This event was definitely worth it and we need to make that an annual event!

Thanks, Ying!

## **Rob Gavin**

*Relationship Manager  
US Bank*

Congratulations on the success of the inaugural Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit.

While this is a one day event, its impact will undoubtedly resonate in our community well beyond. Please accept my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of a phenomena that was the epitome of entrepreneurship. You took a dream and an ideal of what could be and with your faith, drive and tenacity rallied the diverse immigrant community to move in one direction toward a common good.

Please extend my congratulations to each individual and community who helped to make this a reality. It is a best demonstration of the power of collaboration -- of what can be accomplished for the common good when it is more important than the mundane accounting of who should get credit for what.

To all the event organizers, please take the time to soak in and enjoy the moment. Extend my gratitude and admiration to the staff at Community CPA for their unwavering dedication to do whatever was necessary to make this inaugural event a success.

## **San Wong**

*Associate Provost, Urban Campus  
Des Moines Area Community College*





From left are Richard Patterson, Jose Ramos, Inbo Jung, and Abid Talic

### Richard Patterson:

It was such an honor for me to be a part of the IES event, and to actually receive the Immigrant Champion Award was really overwhelming. Knowing who this award came from and knowing what it represents is what makes it so special. It was a day that I will never forget. I loved meeting the other award winners and presenters and so many other wonderful people. This event was so successful and helpful and necessary because the immigrant business owners who came had the opportunity to meet other outstanding immigrants who share the same challenges in operating a small business as an immigrant. This event was also successful because of Ying Sa and all of her incredible employees at Community CPA & Associates who worked so hard to make it happen. Thank you Ying.

### Abid Talic:

Integrity of the Immigrant Community of the Des Moines Metropolitan Area is built on the foundation of humanity. The 2008 Immigrant Entrepreneurship Summit just emphasized what is right, fair and just for one another, allowing humanity to lead the way.

### Inbo Jung:

The Award of Immigrant Spirit is truly a great honor. I feel like my hard work has finally paid off... that I can receive the kind of recognition that is unexpected but truly humbling to me.

### Jose Ramos:

I want to thank you and your staff right from my heart for such wonderful afternoon I had last Saturday at the Summit. The award means a lot and makes me and my family so proud of what we do. I also admire you and congratulate you for having such a good vision by bringing the immigrant entrepreneurs together. I felt so great when I saw many familiar latino faces at the summit. In my opinion this has been the greatest event immigrants entrepreneurs have had in Des Moines and I am 100% sure that the next one in 2009 will be even better.



# IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS SUMMIT

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Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa

