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Design by Grace Yang



2009 IES Remembered

Saturday, November 14, 2009
Olmsted Center, Drake University • 2507 University Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311

A Record Crowd at the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit Honored Outstanding Immigrants and Immigrant Champions

Awardees honored at the 2nd Annual Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit
Saturday, November 14, 2009

Des Moines, Iowa (November 14, 2009) – Recognizing that immigrant business owners represent America's promise in a global economy, community leaders galvanized corporate, government and non profit organizations to strengthen immigrant businesses of all backgrounds through professional resources and fostering mutual collaboration at the second annual Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit.

Three hundred and fifty conference attendees participated in workshops facilitated by professionals who provided an array of comprehensive services and programs that facilitate the start up, maintenance and growth of small businesses were offered throughout the day. Topics covered include how to finance, locate and market a business, support services like insurance and banking, as well as business obligations including taxes and licensing.

The highlight of the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit was the awards luncheon that celebrated the entrepreneurial

spirit and accomplishments of immigrants and immigrant champions who have demonstrated a personal and professional commitment to and advocacy on behalf of immigrants and their families and communities. The five individuals and organizations honored were:

Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award:

Mr. Ian Loo, a community leader channeled his entrepreneurial skills to build a nascent Burmese community that changed the economic and cultural landscape of central Iowa when Iowa experienced an influx of Burmese refugees that transformed a few Burmese families into a small but distinct community.

Outstanding Immigrant Business Award:

Mr. Juan Rodriguez, President of Mundo Latino-Diversity Insurance, Inc. personifies how philanthropy and civic engagement compliments and enhances business profits. The 3000 new clients he gained in a 16 month period that made Mr. Rodriguez's insurance business the most

productive Latino agency in the Midwest can be attributed to his tremendous work ethic and the excellent reputation and rapport he enjoys with the community.

Immigrant Champion Award (Individual):

Long before globalization and a "flat world" were popular buzz words, Mr. Robert T. Anderson has had a keen interest in and understanding of international affairs and the interdependency between the State of Iowa, this country and the rest of the world. He has initiated numerous programs, established several non-profit organizations and been involved in many more. Mr. Anderson has been involved with the immigrant community for more than thirty years. He has celebrated births, graduations, weddings and deaths with his immigrant friends.

Immigrant Champion Award (Organization):

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) champions the aspirations of individuals and communities in Central Iowa and is especially dedicated to providing access to quality, affordable, student-centered education and training to the most disenfranchised in their service area. First generation immigrants, especially those who have come to the state as refugees, are among its most vulnerable stakeholders. Through its leadership and involvement in programs designed and delivered for their needs, DMACC has touched the lives of almost every

immigrant in Central Iowa somewhere along their journey to achieving their career dreams and life's aspirations.

Immigrant Spirit Award:

Born on a farm in San Jose de Godornices, Jalisco, Mexico, Mr. Arturo Deanda immigrated to the United States when he was sixteen. After many years of hard work and passionate pursuit of a better life for himself and his family, he is now President of Deanda Corporation. With annual profits of over a million dollars, Mr. Deanda makes contributions to both the economy and the community. He has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the immigrants' rights movement and in promoting the interest of all immigrants. He has given direct financial support to a number of causes including education, sports, public safety, health care, and other non profit organizations.

The Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit was made possible by generous sponsorship by presenting sponsor, Community CPA & Associates along with other sponsors including Farmer's Insurance, Financial Architects, Wells Fargo, U.S. Bank, City of Des Moines, Corporation for Economic Development in Des Moines, Davis Brown Law Firm, Des Moines Area Community College, Double Dragon Food Market, Heartland Payment Systems, Iowa Asian Alliance and Mundo Latino-Diversity Insurance, Inc.

2009 IES Award Honorees

From left: DMACC(San Wong), Ian Loo, Arturo Deanda, Juan O. Rodriguez, and Robert Anderson



Since 2008 IES, through service providers and IES sponsors, the planning committee obtained the following data:

- As of May 1, 2009, there were **86** new companies were formed in Iowa by IES attendees;
- As of Aug 31, 2009, **1500** new insurance were purchased by IES attendees;
- As of today, there were at least **25** business accounts were established at US bank; about **48** business accounts were established at Wells Fargo;
- **22** new business clients joined Community CPA & Associates Inc;
- **5** new clients obtained services through Kim Baer Law Firm;
- At 2009 IES, over **110** attendees were attendees from 2008 IES.

remembered...



Photography by: Carlos Rios, Swallow Yan, Grace Yang, and Joesten Zhou

November 14, 2009

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR
November 13, 2010



testimonials

Over all, the event was very well organized and attended, so many good comments from so many people. Congratulations to everyone. See you next time.

Surasee Rodari, *Vice President, Consumer Services Manager*
Bankers Trust

IES 2009 once again was an eye-opener event showing not only the strength of the Iowa immigrant community at large but also fulfilling the mission of what the United States of America stand for, American Dream for all.

Abid Talic, *General Manager*
GM Fairfield Inn and Suites

IES 2009 was the premiere event to connect with immigrant entrepreneurs of many backgrounds as potential partners, customers, and friends. This unprecedented event has become the largest gathering of immigrant entrepreneurs in the state of Iowa. IES provides a vital and unique space to grow immigrant entrepreneurship through peer collaborations as well as partnerships with non-immigrant resource providers. Immigrant business owners, many of whom are now repeat participants in IES, share the common experience of having pursued a dream in a foreign place with a foreign language. Through these experiences immigrant entrepreneurs find a new home, a home that they enrich beyond measure through job creation, urban revitalization, tax revenues, and most importantly, living daily the values of hard work and business integrity that make America a great nation.

Max Cardenas, *President*
Empressa Group

Ying must be so proud. What a wonderful gathering. I enjoyed it immensely and loved meeting all the new energetic business owners. Loved speaking with Kha – very interesting fellow. Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it.

Kimberley K. Baer, *Attorney*
Wandro & Baer

Ying – thanks for letting me be a part of the IES summit. It is such a wonderful event, and it’s really nice to meet so many different people. I have a friend who came as a business owner, and he was really impressed. He couldn’t believe how many people came. Thanks again.

Richard Patterson, *Field Auditor*
Iowa Workforce Development



There were 343 attendees from 40 countries:

Africa					
Canary Island	Ethiopia	Kenya	Liberia	Nigeria	Sudan
America					
Argentina	Brazil	Canada	Chile	Columbia	Ecuador
El Salvador	Mexico	Panama	Peru	USA	Venezuela
Asia					
China	Hong Kong	India	Japan	Korea	Lao
Malaysia	Mongolia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Taiwan
Turkey	Vietnam				
Europe					
Bosnia	Croatia	Russia	Serbia	Spain	United Kingdom

...from 40 COUNTRIES