



IMMIGRANT
ENTREPRENEURS
SUMMIT

COMMUNITY
CPA

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IES REMEMBERED

The 16th Annual National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit

FFA Enrichment Center
DMACC, Ankeny Campus

Nov. 18
2023

A Letter from the IES Board of Directors

Dear IES Sponsors, Supporters, Participants, and Volunteers,

In light of this season, we write to all of you with a thankful spirit. We have concluded the 16th Annual Summit, and we want to take time to reflect on our achievements for the year. We have concluded the 2023 IES with much optimism of how the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit is growing and expanding into different parts of the country and drawing more and more geographically diverse crowds than ever before. Beyond the 2023 IES National Summit, there were also Summits hosted in Minneapolis, MN; Coralville-Iowa City, IA; and Moline, IL.

With that, we have a strong sense of responsibility and increasing commitment to the business community, the people in our network, and to our community and beyond.

We have said this before, but IES works to redefine the conversation about the role and impact of first-generation immigrants in this country by creating a trusted space for public discourse and building meaningful connections that bolsters opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurs. IES nurtures the promise and pursuit of the American Dream. Above all, IES bonds us all, immigrants and non-immigrants; business owners or employees; and makes all of us part of one unified society. With this vision and mission, we can say, "Let's grow together!"

What IES has done for its participants is far more important than just becoming an entrepreneur. Our attendees are the future of this country, positively impacting the economic development of their city, state, and country.

We want to express our gratitude to you. Please know we want to work with you to make this event better than before. IES can never be a one-person mission and it was never meant to be. Instead, it takes a village, a community, and a nation. We look forward to what 2024 will bring!

With sincerest gratitude,

Ying Sa, Kiyo Matsuyama, Ben Jung, Carlos Rios
IES Board of Directors



AFRICA

Benin	Burkina Faso	Cameroon
Chad	Côte d'Ivoire	DR Congo
Eritrea	Ghana	Kenya
Liberia	Nigeria	Somalia
South Sudan	Sudan	Tanzania
Togo	Zambia	

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Brazil	Canada	Colombia
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Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico
Panama	Peru	USA
Venezuela		

ASIA

Afghanistan	China	Bhutan
India	Japan	Philippine
Singapore	South Korea	Vietnam

EUROPE

Bosnia	France	Germany
Moldova	Russia	Serbia

600+
Registrants from
45 Countries



Iowa is blessed with an especially robust network of established immigrant entrepreneurs eager to help new entrants. The Summit does exactly that by breaking down barriers, forging connections, and providing practical assistance. The results are truly transformative.

– Kim Reynolds, Governor of Iowa

If you want to reinvigorate your business ownership dreams and goals, you want to attend the Des Moines IES event each year. There is so much energy, hope, and optimism. Everyone is there to learn, share, and connect with each other. Loved the spirit of inclusion and community support, especially with so many people from different parts of the world. Volunteers are amazing, they are so dedicated. It feels good to be a part of such a special event, it is energizing. I appreciate the value that IES created for the business community in Des Moines.

– Ran Solis, Wells Fargo

Community CPA is a proud supporter of this great event, giving back to the community and volunteering at IES. Our entire staff looks forward to participating year after year!

– Dan Kim, Community CPA

As the 2008 Global Leadership Award winner and ever since strongly supporting IES mission and vision for the future of diverse, inclusive, and empowering immigrant-based business in the State of Iowa 2023 IES event once again exceeded all expectations. Having an opportunity to represent JPMorgan Chase as one of the Partner Sponsors of the event, attending business educational workshops, networking with immigrant business leaders and seeing our own Majda Hadzic, Executive Market Director leader on the stage presenting IES Immigrant Spirit Award was a remarkable experience. 2023 IES event mission fully aligned with our firm purpose to be Bank for All, The Easiest to Do Business with and To Be Trusted in Our Communities! We are looking forward to continuing partnership with the IES and to supporting all the Immigrant based businesses in the State of Iowa throughout their journey of making a positive economic, and community difference for the State of Iowa and the future generations to come.

– Abid Talic, JPMorgan Chase



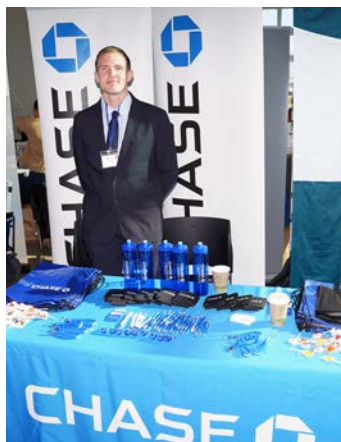
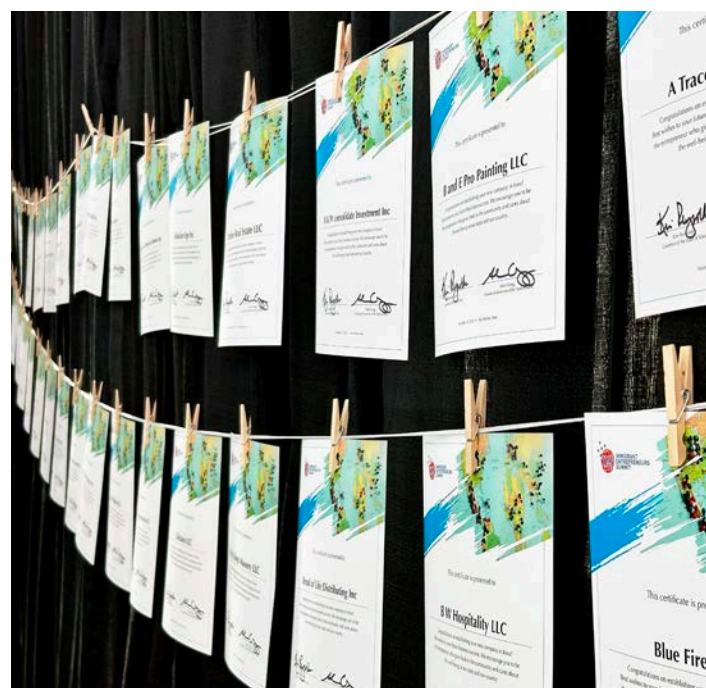
As a scientist immigrant, IES is the best place to boost and motivate more immigrants to bring talents, hopes, and dreams to improve the economy, jobs creation, people's lives, and more valuable gifts in science and technology to the United States of America. I got more opportunities for my invention but was encouraged to attend the Iowa IES event before choosing a place

for my headquarters. I accepted the invitation to go to the 16th event of IES. The event has changed my mind and the location of my headquarters. IES, entrepreneurs, and political leaders let me feel that any immigrant is welcome at Iowa as home to achieve their good dreams'.

– Ulrich Ndilira Rotam
IRIDCCS Technologies

As sponsors, exhibitors and presenters at IES, we are always overwhelmed at the number of invested attendees that come to this event. This is by far the most engaged group of individuals we meet at events throughout the year – vested in learning more about the resources available to them to help grow their businesses. It is always a great day full of inspiration!!

– Amy Kuhlers
Iowa Economic Development Authority





Underwriting Exposed \$5,000 Business Pitch

2023 Winner

Yinka Cole, YMC Wellness LLC

Finalists

Darius Nupolu
Nupolu's Emerging Farms LLC

Yinka Cole
YMC Wellness LLC

Xochiquetzal Fonseca Pérez
Elote Shop LLC

I really appreciate the opportunity given to me and all the sponsors of the event. Immigration is not just about crossing borders. It is about crossing into a future where possibilities are limitless and dreams know no bounds.

– Yinka Cole, YMC Wellness LLC

It was great and educational and more especially, the networking was great, the environment was cool, and exchange of knowledge was excellent. The opportunity afforded me to have gone on stage to speak before a large audience was great. Thanks for the opportunity! Hope this will be a continued process.

– Darius Nupolu, Nupolu Farms LLC



2023 IES Award Honorees

Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award:

Dekow Sagar

Outstanding Immigrant Business Award:

Jay Wang

Wasabi Group Inc.

Karen L. Evans Immigrant Champion Award:

Catholic Charities Diocese of Des Moines

Immigrant Spirit Award:

Vinh Nguyen

Catholic Charities is honored to have been a part of the 2023 Immigrant Entrepreneurial Summit. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with other dedicated colleagues who are doing incredible work for immigrants in Iowa. We value the recognition extended to us as a recipient of the Karen L. Evans Immigrant Champion Award and remain committed to serving new lowans with care and compassion.

– Barbara Q. Decker
Catholic Charities Diocese of Des Moines

IES provides a solid platform where creativity among immigrant business owners flourished.

– Vinh Nguyen

It always feels like a homecoming when I attend the IES every year! Everyone is extremely supportive of connecting each other with needed resources, and the entrepreneurial energy is extremely high.

– Russel Karim, Dhakai

I strongly recommend that individuals with a genuine interest in launching or expanding their businesses consider attending the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit. This conference is rich in resources, features excellent speakers, and provides valuable information crucial for the initiation or expansion of your business. The event's staff, partners, and participants are not only highly professional but also remarkably inquisitive and supportive. Devoting time to enhancing your business knowledge through this summit is a powerful investment in yourself.

– Jessica Trinidad, TeamStrong Inc.

As a first time attendee, I was blown away by this event. Not only was I inspired by the success stories shared, but I was impressed by the quality of breakout sessions and speakers. We made great connections with current and future business owners and appreciate the opportunity to be a part of such a great event.

– Kirsten Case Fuller, America's SBDC Iowa

The Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit left me feeling moved, inspired and even more driven to continue to support people with big ideas. In one day, I was able to lend advice and guidance to 20+ entrepreneurs about their digital product strategies.

– Colleen Kinsey, Softvoya

It was great and educational and more especially, the networking was great, the environment was cool, and exchange of knowledge was excellent. The opportunity afforded me to have gone on stage to speak before a large audience was great. Thanks for the opportunity! Hope this will be a continued process.

– Darius Nupolu, Nupolu Farms LLC

It was an honor to attend the 2023 Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit. My understanding and level of inspiration grew tremendously after hearing about local leaders in the immigrant community, successful immigrant-owned businesses, and collaboration happening among groups. Iowa is fortunate to have such a strong community of immigrant entrepreneurs: our lives are better because of their visions.

– Sarah Green, LSI

The 2023 Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit helped foster unity among businesses with many types of diverse backgrounds. The event provided a space for immigrant entrepreneurs to come together and celebrate their journey. Events such as this one help build on Greater Des Moines' status as a global region.

– Stacey Robles
Greater Des Moines Partnership

IES is a perfect example of the Iowa "help-first" mantra. Getting energized by powerful stories of perseverance and connecting dreamers with resources. An exceptional event with a cascading impact. Great work by Catherine Tran and the whole IES team!

– Joey Norris Dream Forge, LLC

Beeline and Blue has been providing printing and graphics for the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit for years, however this was my first time as an attendee. I was impressed and inspired by the award winners who shared their personal stories of overcoming incredible hardship to become successful leaders in the community. Throughout the day-long event, the speakers were engaging, the workshops were interesting, and the exhibitors provided invaluable resources to all attendees. Well done!

– Debborah Harp, Beeline and Blue

IES is a great event that brings people together to celebrate the milestones and journeys so many have taken to change their life and stars! I look forward to attending every year and my favorite part is hearing the stories of how they came to IES, and how far they've come! I'm looking forward to attending again next year!

– Kathy Norris, Payteva



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Questions?

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