



11/16/24

# IES REMEMBERED

The 17th Annual National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit

FFA Enrichment Center | DMACC, Ankeny Campus



# 700+ REGISTRANTS



# FROM 51 COUNTRIES



## AFRICA

Cameroon	Côte d'Ivoire	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kenya	
Liberia	Malawi	Mali	Nigeria	South Africa
South Sudan	Tanzania	Togo	Uganda	Zimbabwe

## AMERICA

Canada	Colombia	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Guatemala
Guyana	Haïti	Honduras	Jamaica	Mexico
Nicaragua	Peru	United States	Venezuela	

## ASIA

China	Georgia	India	Japan	Jordan	Laos
Myanmar	Pakistan	Philippines	Singapore	South Korea	Thailand
Turkmenistan	Vietnam				

## EUROPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina	France	Germany	Italy	Serbia
Spain	Ukraine	United Kingdom		



# A Letter from the IES Board of Directors

Dear friends,

17 years ago, IES was created out of the needs recognized by three immigrants – Max Cardenas, Swallow Yan, and myself. Since then, many have helped to take up the IES cause, particularly our IES Planning Team!

During these years, more than 12,000 people attended the event, more than 2,220 companies were born from IES.

IES is regarded as the place where business knowledge is shared; immigrants' hard working, upbeat spirit were celebrated; American dreams were ignited one after another during its Underwriting Exposed pitch competition.

IES is the must come-to event for startups!

After this deeply divisive 2024 presidential election, you and I are here again to love – bravely. To care – wholeheartedly. To celebrate the success of immigrant entrepreneurs - in unity! IES is not powered by political motives. At IES, you do not need to identify by your votes and by what party you are registered with.

IES is powered by love and unity. IES is a place and time where the love, the care, the dream, the hopes are expressed, enhanced and celebrated.

IES is the home for immigrant entrepreneurs. The people you see are your family. We care so deeply for you, we are here with you.

I am thankful for the sponsors; you make this event possible. Thank you to those who attend; you make the summit come to life.

As we look into 2025, IES' mantra is Let's Grow Together!

In Unity,

Ying Sa, IES Board Chair



The American Dream is alive and well in Iowa! Starting and owning a business is an incredible adventure, filled with challenges and triumphs. To all the new business owners out there: on behalf of the state, I want to say welcome! You're not just starting a business – you're becoming part of the Iowa family.

– Paul Pate  
Iowa Secretary of State

This was the first year Latina Leadership Initiative attended IES and we were beyond amazed! This was such an amazing event to learn several important aspects to entrepreneurship, make great connections, and hear about what impact and great work other individuals are doing in our communities. We would love to return, we were truly inspired!

– Kathy Guillen  
Latina Leadership Initiative of GDM

U.S. Bank always enjoys our involvement in IES and the event this year was another testament of our commitment. The seminars were great, the exhibitor hall was filled with engagement and the award ceremony celebrated extraordinary immigrant success stories. It was a fantastic event.

– Colin Brown  
US Bank

The Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit was an inspiring experience that brought together a diverse community of dreamers and changemakers. It reminded me of the power of resilience and the importance of building networks that support immigrant entrepreneurs striving to make a difference.

– Yvemide Anacius  
United Female Bosses

Volunteering and attending the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit 2024 was an unforgettable experience. The seminars provided invaluable guidance for business owners at all levels, and I was deeply inspired by the recipients' stories of resilience and success. Their journeys remind us of the opportunities this country provides for those with the courage to dream and the determination to achieve.

– Viridiana Ramirez  
CART Construction

This was my first time attending IES and I had a blast! It was so fun to meet existing and prospective business owners and hear about how our paths can intersect.

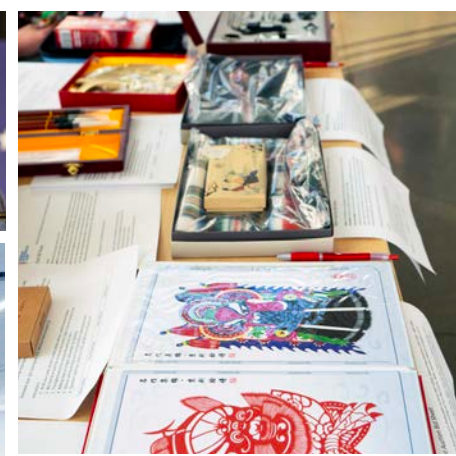
– Nicholas Tarpey  
City of Des Moines

IES has become a staple and epicenter of the immigrant entrepreneurial spirit in central Iowa.

– Amner Martinez  
Infinite Resources

I was very inspired by the event and would love to help with this or any other IES events!

– Nicole Tam  
KCCI Des Moines





## 2024 IES Award Honorees

Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award: **Boaz Nkingi**

Outstanding Immigrant Business Award: **Perlla Deluca**

Karen L. Evans Immigrant Champion Award: **Robert J. Denson**

Immigrant Spirit Award: **Amalia Moreno-Damgaard**



Community CPA, as the Presenting Sponsor, always looks forward to IES! Our team circles this event as soon as the date comes out and come here every year because this is part of our firm's culture. Community CPA believes in volunteering for events that support the immigrant and minority business community. And we want everyone in the firm to get this opportunity to serve. We carry the immigrant spirit to work hard, never settling, and never stop learning.

– Dan Kim  
Community CPA

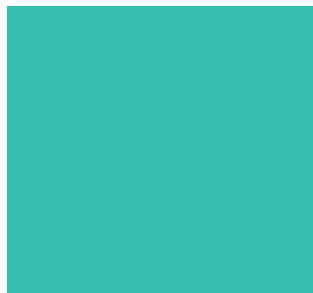
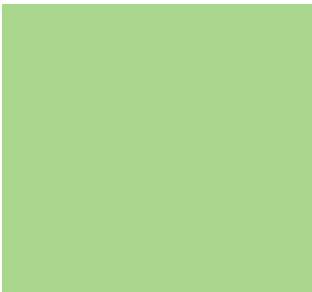
DMACC is honored to have been the host site of the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES) for 10 of its 17 years. Celebrating the successes of all Immigrants is important to remind us that immigrants, as successful Iowans, help make Iowa what it is. Thank you!

– Robert Denson  
Des Moines Area Community College

The Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit is more than an event – it's a celebration of resilience, innovation, and the boundless potential within immigrant communities. It inspired me to dream bigger and reminded me of the impact we can achieve when we come together.

– Juan O. Rodriguez  
Latin World Media





It was another wonderful event this year! It's always fun to connect with our community partners and meet new small businesses. The awards were especially moving this year – it was really incredible to be a part of that.

– Britney Appelgate  
Wells Fargo

Connecting with entrepreneurs and exploring the many visa and green card opportunities available through employment and business was truly inspiring. I had a wonderful time sharing insights and exchanging ideas!

– Xavier Francis  
Francis Law

Stearns Bank was thrilled to support the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit, an amazing event showcasing thoughtful collaboration, trailblazing creativity, and limitless opportunity within the business community.

– Rory Bidinger  
Stearns Bank

Attending the 2024 IES event was very fulfilling for me as an immigrant/lowan because of the unique resources it provides to the immigrant business community. IES is changing lives and enabling immigrants to build generational wealth through successful business. Keep up the great work!

– Dr. Eric Idehen  
Evelyn K Davis Center for  
Working Families



# Underwriting Exposed Business Pitch

# \$5000



## FINALISTS

- **Yvemide Anacius**, United Female Bosses
- **Ulrich Ndilira Rotam**, SECE Energy
- **Weijun Liang**, Welwe Dumplings

This is my 3rd year attending IES. Winning the Underwriting Exposed Business Pitch is the most encouraging moment for Welwe Dumplings! Welwe Foods was just a vague idea in May 2022 when it was the first time I attended IES in Minneapolis. I gained knowledge, encouragement from immigrant folks, and brought actual helpful resources back to my daily business running. Now, my partners and I have never been more confident on our entrepreneurship journey!

– Tanya Liang, Welwe Hearty Foods LLC

## Past Pitch Winners

- 2014:** **Goreth Nabukeera**  
Import & Export  
Cosmetics Company
- 2015:** **Russel Karim**  
Dhakai Inc.
- 2016:** **Wilfredo Melgar**  
Periódico Conexión Latina
- 2017:** **Claudia Schabel**  
Schabel Solutions
- 2018:** **Kavir Ramos**  
Tortilla Factor in Iowa City
- 2019:** **Christine Tran**  
Cleva LLC
- 2020:** **Julien Duhautois**  
Line Call LLC
- 2021:** **Fabian Li**  
The Bean & Leaf Mobile
- 2022:** **Dady Mansaray**  
FitMeReach LLC
- 2023:** **Yinka Cole**  
YMC Wellness LLC

# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

Presenting  
Sponsors



Silver  
Supporter



Partner  
Supporters



Entrepreneur  
Sponsors



Business  
Advocate  
Sponsors



Media

