IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS SUMMIT

# IES REMEMBERED

## The 18th Annual National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit

FFA Enrichment Center | DMACC Ankeny Campus




**Nov.15, 2025**

# 600+ REGISTRANTS







## A Letter from the IES Board of Directors

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# FROM 55 COUNTRIES








IES represents the heart of Community CPA's commitment to the community. Its impact in this day and age is undeniable. From inspiring aspiring immigrant entrepreneurs to dream big, to being an ecosystem for these entrepreneurs to grow and to actually achieve their dreams, IES is more needed than ever in this country. Community CPA witnesses the impact firsthand, as new and emerging entrepreneurs share their struggles but find ways to overcome difficulties with the new partners and friends they make at IES events, which take place throughout various parts of the Midwest. We are a proud sponsor and will remain committed as long as our immigrant entrepreneurs and business community continue to dream, grow, and make a positive economic impact for many more generations to come.

– Dan Kim, Community CPA

Attending this year's IES conference as a Senior Business Consultant for Chase and having the chance to lead the "Marketing in a Digital World" workshop was a great experience. We had more than 50 participants in the room, and the level or engagement was strong. We had lots of questions, real conversations, and a great mix of Small Business owners looking to improve their digital presence. Beyond the workshop, we hosted a table with teammates from Business and Consumer Banking, Community Management, and our Not-for-Profit group. We were able to meet with participants individually, understand what they're working through, and walk them through the resources we offer to support entrepreneurs at various points of their journey. The event was a strong reminder of how important it is to be engaged locally and how Chase continues to back business owners with the guidance and partnership they need.

– Rafael Colon, JPMorganChase









# 2024 IES Award Honorees









Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award:
**Reverend Pastor Eugene Kiruhura**

Outstanding Immigrant Business Award:
**Kha Phan, Bright Technologies LLC**

Karen L. Evans Immigrant Champion Award:
**Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn**

Immigrant Spirit Award:
**Manish Nathwani**



This was one of my Highlights of 2025! I am still celebrating it. I am very humble to say thank you for honoring me with the Immigrant Entrepreneur Leadership Award.

– Pastor Eugene Kiruhura
Shalom Covenant Church

Thank you for these marvelous photos [of the Awards Ceremony]. They will always be treasured memories of an extremely meaningful day for me. I am so very grateful for that recognition.

– Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn
President Emeritus
The World Food Prize

I was honored to receive the Outstanding Immigrant Business Award at this truly remarkable ceremony. Receiving this award was a proud and humbling moment, reaffirming my commitment to the community and embracing opportunity. Kudos to the organizers for hosting such a meaningful and well-executed event. It was more than an award ceremony – it was a celebration of dreams realized and futures being built.

– Kha Phan
BrightTech.ai

It was a great event, and I truly enjoyed it! I loved how the sponsors were spaced out and not everyone in the same category all together. I got to the meet the lady next to me from Upper Iowa University and we talked for quite a while. I loved the opening ceremony and how it brought the whole event together. The speakers at the luncheon were amazing as well!

– Tracy Gibson, Bankers Trust

Grateful for spaces that celebrate the hard work, and dreams of immigrants who are building a new life and new opportunities in this country. Proud to learn, grow, and keep pushing forward together.

– Fazal Moneer
Iowa Afghan Community and Cultural Organization (IACCO)

It was an honor to represent U.S. Bank at the 18th Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit. U.S. Bank has been a long-time Sponsor of the Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit, and being part of the 18th Annual Summit this year felt incredibly meaningful. I had the honor of presenting the Outstanding Immigrant Business Award to Kha Phan; an incredible business owner whose hard work and impact on our community truly inspired me. Before presenting the award, I shared about U.S. Bank's engagement and commitment to supporting entrepreneurs, along with my own experience as the daughter of a first-generation immigrant. Being able to share that piece of my story in a room full of people who truly understand the deep meaning of perseverance and opportunity meant so much.... The Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit continues to be such a special event full of passion, connection, and stories of perseverance. Here's to celebrating diversity, entrepreneurship, and the incredible individuals who make our communities stronger every single day.

– Megan Abdallah, US Bank











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– Tracy Gibson, Bankers Trust

I spent my Saturday at the 18th Annual Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit, an event I've attended many times and proudly support as a planning committee member. My passion for entrepreneurship is what first brought me in – but over the years, working with entrepreneurs has shown me just how essential immigrant innovators are to the strength and vibrancy of our city and our country.

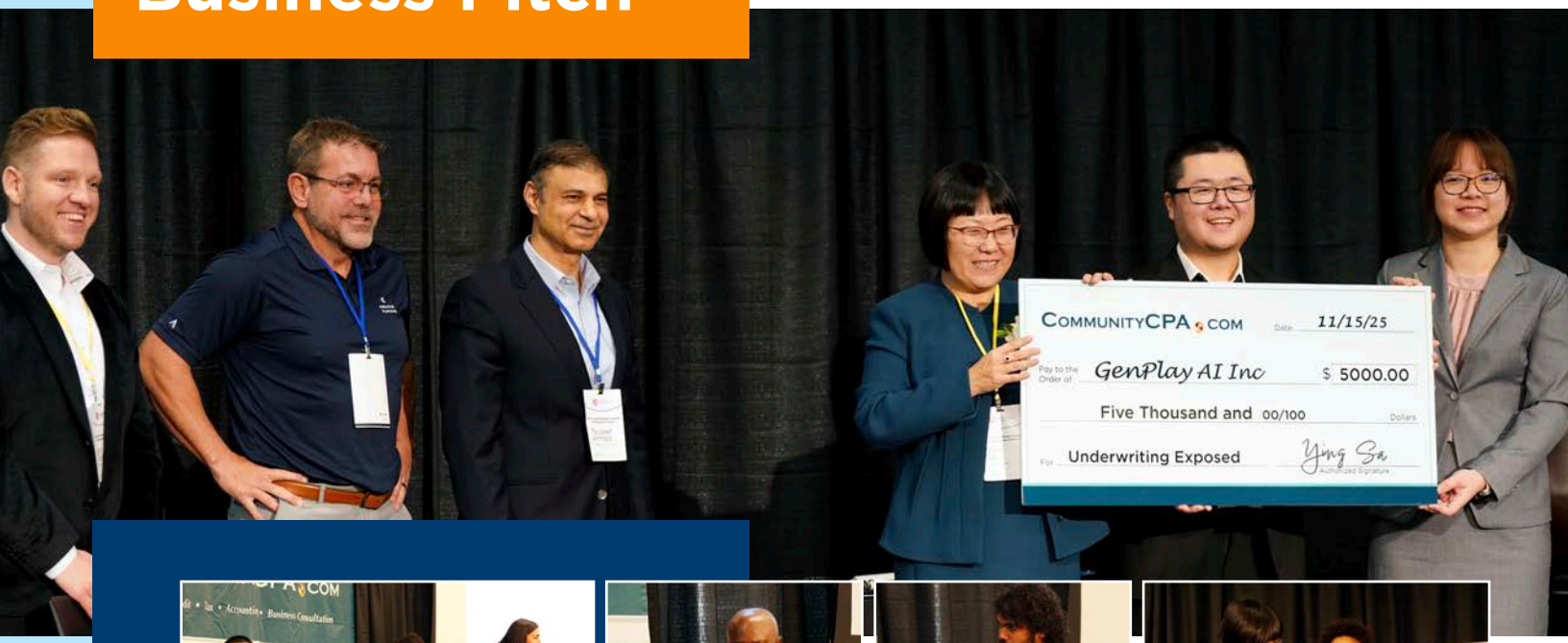
– Laura Kinnard, Curated Growth

After Thanksgiving, I'm still reflecting on what I am thankful for this year. This has been a year of a lot of changes. But when the clarity hit that it was time to launch my own firm, I dove in head first. Including presenting at the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit 18th Annual Event in November. I am so grateful for the connections I've made and the opportunity to be surrounded by this inspiring immigrant community as they start and grow businesses here in the U.S., supporting our economy and sharing their cultures.

– Emily C. Brown, Esq., Elevate Justice

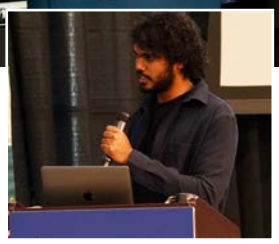
# Underwriting Exposed $5,000 Business Pitch

**Bei Zhao, GenPlay AI Inc**
**2025 IES Underwriting Exposed Competition Winner**









IES continues to be one of the most inspiring gathering for immigrant entrepreneurs in the Midwest. The quality of conversations, the enthusiasm of the participants, and the spirit of collaboration truly stood out this year. It was a privilege to lead an AI workshop for small businesses and to see firsthand how many founders are eager to learn, grow, and innovate. The pitch competition was equally impressive - the passion and creativity of the entrepreneurs were remarkable. IES plays an essential role in uplifting our community, and I'm grateful to be part of it.

– Tauseef Ahmed
Grayhawk Consulting Group

We are thrilled to share that we won the 18th National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES) Underwriting Exposed Business Pitch Competition! A heartfelt thank you to the entire Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit team for organizing such an impactful event and for creating a platform that empowers immigrant entrepreneurs to innovate, connect, and grow… The passion and resilience in this community motivate us to continue pushing the boundaries of what's possible with AI + creativity. Winning this competition strengthens our mission at GenPlay AI – to bring accessible, delightful, AI-powered personalized products to more creators, families, and communities.

– Bei Zhao, GenPlay AI

I am grateful for everything that came from Aura. Being a top three finalist [for Underwriting Exposed business pitch competition] at the National Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit, joining The Residency Delta, and hearing from users reminded me why I love building things that matter. This year has humbled me and strengthened me. It taught me that I need to do more, grow more, and become better if I want to achieve the greatness I dream about. I do not know what the future holds, but I know one thing. I will win. I will get what I want in my life by staying on the right path.

– Vikas Sabbi, Aura

The awards luncheon was wonderful! It was so interesting to learn more about the paths taken by this year's honorees - very inspirational! I applaud you all on a job well done!

– Amy Kuhlers
Iowa Economic Development Authority

It was an incredible honor to be invited as a speaker at the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit 2025 – and equally humbling for Africalivenetwork.tv to be invited to cover the event... Our work thrives because our community's stories matter – and when we tell them well, they open doors… Capturing these stories reminded me once again that impact is not measured only by what we build, but by what we preserve and pass on. Thank you to Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit for the platform, the recognition, and for championing entrepreneurs who are shaping the future.

– Jack Chimbetete, Africa Live Network

Delighted to have been invited as a speaker at the 2025 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit in Iowa. Grateful for the opportunity to share insights and connect with many inspiring entrepreneurs.

– Ismail Shahtakhtinski
I.S. Law Firm, PLLC

It was a great conference! The attendees were encouraging and uplifting to one another, building community. I'm looking forward to next year!

– Susan Leek
Upper Iowa University





















# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

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