



Awards Ceremony
Library of Congress
May 20, 2009

Welcoming Remarks

Demetrios Papademetriou

President, MPI

Prizes Program Overview / Introduction of Finalists

Michael Fix

Senior Vice President and Co-Director, MPI
National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy

2009 Finalists

Latino Community Credit Union
John Herrera, Board Chairman

Queens Library
Fred Gitner, Coordinator, New Americans Program

Presentation of the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes

Margie McHugh

Co-Director, MPI National Center on
Immigrant Integration Policy

2009 Winners

AVANCE-El Paso
Sanjay Mathur, Executive Director

City of Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative
Doug Clark, Mayor of Littleton

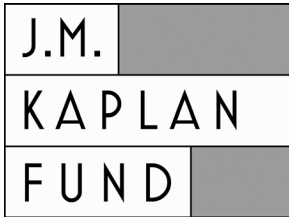
Internationals Network for Public Schools
Claire Sylvan, Executive Director

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Stephen Fotopulos, Executive Director

Closing Remarks

Peter Davidson

Chairman, J.M. Kaplan Fund



Dear Friends,

The J.M. Kaplan Fund is proud to support the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes and to work in tandem with the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy at the Migration Policy Institute. Kaplan and MPI share the belief that immigrants replenish and improve America, and that in return America provides singular opportunities to both immigrants and the US communities they join. Immigrant integration is a reliable fact, one from which all Americans benefit.

Ninety-nine percent of the American populace comes from immigrant stock. It's just a question of when you got here. The founder of the Kaplan Fund, my grandfather, was born in Massachusetts only one year after his parents fled the confinements of Galicia. He never wavered in his devotion to the American civic virtues of hard work, open minds, and open arms. He knew that welcoming new immigrants was an investment in our nation's future.

The *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes embody another shared belief: that telling the stories of people and organizations which have enjoyed dramatic success in integrating new citizens may inspire kindred efforts around the country. Let's all learn from each other. We hope that the recognition that these awards will bring – to this year's recipients and those to come – will encourage this work.

With thanks to our friends at MPI and the hundreds of people from throughout the country who have worked so hard in this noble achievement.

Yours truly,

Peter Davidson
Chairman, J.M. Kaplan Fund



To Our Esteemed Guests and Awardees,

Thank you for joining us on this special occasion as we celebrate a process as old as our country and as deeply etched in the nation's psyche as any: *E Pluribus Unum* – “out of many, one.” We celebrate tonight the continuing renewal and rebuilding of our nation as members of American communities encounter newcomers and together build futures that are stronger economically and more socially and culturally inclusive. After all, immigration ultimately succeeds when immigrants succeed, and effective integration practices are at the heart of that process.

The Prizes program is made possible by the J.M. Kaplan Fund Board of Trustees – all of them members of a family that is very proud and conscious of its immigrant roots. Kaplan's generosity has enabled the Migration Policy Institute and its National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy to recognize exceptional immigrant integration initiatives from across the United States. We thank our very dedicated and distinguished Advisory Board for helping us whittle more than 500 applications to the six extraordinary efforts we celebrate now. The story told by those applications and our winners and finalists is one of unflinching commitment to America's ideals, hard and imaginative work, and, most fundamentally, one of resilience and renewal.

The insights provided by the applicants' cutting-edge integration “laboratories” have reminded all of us of an almost uniquely American quality too often obscured by the all-consuming and unproductive political arguments about immigration – that America's communities and institutions, and its immigrants, are still engaged every day in weaving the fabric that makes us one.

I hope you enjoy this showcase of our *E Pluribus Unum* winners and finalists. Please join us in building knowledge and connections across the far-flung fields of immigrant integration and in making clear the need for greater attention to such efforts by policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetrios Papademetriou'.

Demetrios Papademetriou, PhD
President, Migration Policy Institute

WELCOME FROM MARGIE MCHUGH AND MICHAEL FIX



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy is extremely proud to administer the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes and to have the privilege of honoring our four prize winners and two finalists tonight.

The Prizes program allows us to provide well-deserved recognition to a small number of truly exceptional immigrant integration initiatives and by association to honor the many thousands of groups and individuals whose cutting-edge work today upholds one of our nation's most cherished ideals: *E Pluribus Unum* – “out of many, one.”



We encouraged applicants from all walks of life to tell us what they were doing to promote stronger ties between immigrant and native-born communities or to help immigrants and their children join the mainstream of American life. We were surprised and delighted by the more than 500 applications we received and the stories they told of successes being achieved in classrooms, living rooms, community councils, and workplaces across the country.

At a time when few resources and scant policy attention are focused on immigrant integration issues, we are pleased that the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes are able to reward some of the unsung heroes who have devoted themselves to this important work, and in doing so provide inspiration and program models to others around the country who might undertake similar efforts.

We thank the J.M. Kaplan Fund and our wonderfully smart and engaged Advisory Board for helping us to create the Prizes; and Monica Arciga, who has so ably coordinated the program and overcome so many unexpected challenges. Most of all, we thank the extraordinarily strong pool of applicants, exceptional awardees, and finalists – may your efforts to renew and realize America's promise find the support and recognition they so richly deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie McHugh".

Margie McHugh
Co-Director,
MPI National Center on Immigrant
Integration Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Fix".

Michael Fix
Senior Vice President and Co-Director,
MPI National Center on Immigrant
Integration Policy



For more information on the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes initiative, profiles of the 2009 winners and finalists, and information on applying for the 2010 Prizes, visit:

www.integrationawards.org

Applicant Pool

More than 500 applications were submitted, with applicants hailing from 47 states and the District of Columbia, and covering a range of fields of work and an even wider range of organizations and populations served. The applicants provided a rich array of examples of the integration efforts taking place in the United States as businesses, governments, and nonprofit institutions – large, medium, and small – attempt to make today’s immigration policies a “win-win” proposition for immigrants and the communities in which they settle.

Applicants’ initiatives include adult English and job training classes at local organizations, community colleges, and businesses; school and youth development programs that help immigrant children adapt and thrive in their new country; and a fascinating assortment of health, employment, legal, language access, and financial services efforts. They also include community associations where immigrants and native-born residents work together to address common problems, as well as volunteer mentoring, literacy, and settlement support programs that create friendships and understanding across cultures and generations.

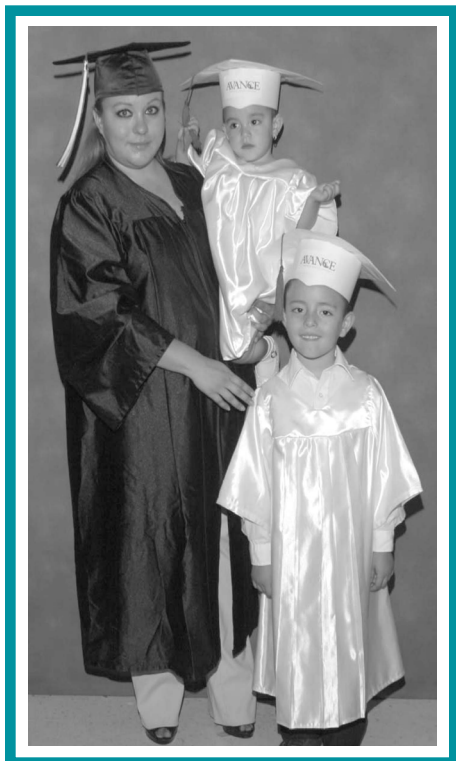
Many of the applicants engage immigrants and their families as full partners, promoting their leadership and involvement not just within the initiative or program but in their community’s broader civic and political life. And these initiatives are being spearheaded by a truly inspiring array of leaders – both native- and foreign-born – and at public and private organizations including schools, community-based organizations, community colleges and universities, legal aid programs, public libraries, health clinics, foundations, businesses, houses of worship, and government agencies.

The *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes will operate for at least two more years. If you are involved in an exceptional immigrant integration initiative, we encourage you to apply for recognition next year. The next application period will open in the fall of 2009. Check our website for application details and deadlines.



AVANCE-El Paso

Sanjay Mathur, Executive Director



An innovative early childhood and parenting education initiative hosted by 14 schools in the nation's fourth poorest city, AVANCE-El Paso is designed to help parents and their preschool children break the cycle of poverty through early childhood development, parenting education, adult literacy, and healthy marriage classes.

Although 94 percent of AVANCE children are economically disadvantaged, program graduates outscore their school district peers as a whole on standardized tests by 12 to 15 percentage points and have shown higher high school graduation and college enrollment rates.

AVANCE-El Paso currently serves 3,000 children and adults in child development, parenting, and intensive family literacy classes at an average annual cost per family of \$2,500. Launched in 1997,

AVANCE-El Paso is an offshoot of the AVANCE program begun in San Antonio in 1973 that has been replicated in nine other Texas locations, southern New Mexico, and San Jose, California.

For more on AVANCE-El Paso, visit:

www.avance-elpaso.org



City of Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative

Doug Clark, Mayor of Littleton



Against a backdrop of changing demographics common to Colorado and other new destination states, civic and government leaders in Littleton decided to address head-on the changes in their community brought about by immigration. In 2005, these leaders launched a bridge-building initiative to foster closer ties between native-born residents and immigrants, encourage civic engagement and greater cultural understanding, and connect immigrants with services that could bolster their professional, educational, and health outcomes.

The Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative (LI3) includes a one-on-one citizenship mentoring program believed by US Citizenship and Immigration Services to be unique and through which nearly all students pass their citizenship exam.

Seeking to create a coordinated cross-agency response, the LI3 initiative also operates an innovative One-Stop Information Center, housed at a local public library, that assists immigrants on topics ranging from jobs, education, health and dental care, transportation, banking, and housing.

For more on Littleton's LI3 program, visit:
www.connectingimmigrants.org



Internationals Network for Public Schools

Claire Sylvan, Executive Director



A highly successful network of 11 small public high schools operating on existing school campuses in New York City and Oakland, California, Internationals Network educates late-entry, overwhelmingly low-income children from more than 90 countries. Serving 3,500 students this year, all having arrived with limited English skills, Internationals Network sees 90 percent of its graduates go on to college – a remarkable result considering that the graduation rate for limited English proficient students in New York City stands at 23.5 percent.

The first Internationals school, founded 25 years ago on a community college campus, generated a successful model that was replicated three times prior to the incorporation of Internationals Network. Since the formation of the nonprofit in 2004, through the financial support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the model has been re-created six times in New York City and once in California, with a 12th school opening in San Francisco in August.

For more on Internationals Network for Public Schools, visit:
www.internationalsnps.org



Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

Stephen Fotopoulos, Executive Director



In 2006, the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition launched a public education and communications campaign to foster constructive public dialogue in a state facing profound demographic change with a more than 300 percent growth in its immigrant population over 15 years. The Welcoming Tennessee Initiative creates opportunities for Tennessee residents, native-born and immigrant alike, to discuss the effects of immigration, its historical and national contexts, and how to develop strategies for strong, inclusive communities.

The Initiative has created welcoming committees in Nashville and Shelbyville (a small community that has experienced a large influx of Latino and Somali immigrants) to facilitate conversations about immigration; recruited and trained more than 70 “ambassadors” around the state to organize welcoming committees and facilitate discussions; launched public education campaigns through billboard ads; and held community forums and presentations at churches, universities, civic clubs, and other sites. The Welcoming Tennessee Initiative has inspired similar efforts in 13 other states.

For more on Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition’s Welcoming Tennessee Initiative, visit: www.welcomingtn.org



Latino Community Credit Union

John Herrera, Board Chairman / Luis Pastor, CEO

www.latinoccu.org

Headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, the Latino Community Credit Union serves as a model for financial institutions seeking to serve immigrant communities and the unbanked. Created in 2000, the Credit Union has brought 51,000 people into the financial mainstream by providing affordable, full-service financial products and services. With its innovative and comprehensive bilingual financial education program, the Credit Union has reached more than 9,755 low-income and unbanked immigrants hampered by language barriers, limited education, or cultural distrust of financial institutions.



Queens Library

Fred Gitner, Coordinator, New Americans Program /
Maureen O'Connor, Queens Library Chief Operating Officer

www.queenslibrary.org

One of New York City's three independent library systems, serving one of the nation's most ethnically diverse counties (with nearly half of all residents foreign born and 55 percent speaking a language other than English), Queens Library has systematically upgraded its programs to facilitate use of library and educational services by immigrants and their children in order to build literacy and life skills. Through the New Americans Program launched in 1977, Queens Library provides literacy and English language classes, multilingual computer workshops and e-books, online portals to social services for immigrants, civic engagement and citizenship courses, increased access to health care networks, assistance in launching a business, and homework help for the children of non-English speakers, among other services. The library system is the nation's busiest, circulating more than 23 million books, videos, music, and other library items in 70 languages in 2007.

E PLURIBUS UNUM PRIZES NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD



With deep thanks to the experts who served on our Advisory Board:

Cristina Azocar, Director, Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism, San Francisco State University

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Federico Zaragoza, Vice Chancellor of Economic & Workforce Development, Alamo Community College District



Launched in 2007, MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy is a crossroads for policymakers, journalists, state and local agency managers, local service providers, and others seeking to respond to the challenges and opportunities today's high rates of immigration create in local communities.

The Center exists to:

- ***Focus needed attention.*** We work to bring often-overlooked issues of immigrant integration to the fore of national and local debates, promoting constructive solutions that will build stronger, more cohesive, and more successful communities.
- ***Set the record straight.*** We provide an unbiased look at the needs, costs, and contributions of immigrants and provide a balanced analysis of the integration policy options facing local communities and our nation.
- ***Organize and strengthen a nascent field.*** Groups and individuals tackling integration issues often work in isolation, unable to leverage their expertise and energy into more systemic outcomes. We connect them to one another, inform and nurture their efforts, and promote the entry of new actors into integration policy and its various subfields.
- ***Identify and promote effective policies and practices.*** The need for expertise has only grown with migration to “new destination” states, the continuing debate over illegal immigration, and more urgent concerns about the competitiveness of US workers and products in a globalized economy. We provide the research, data, and ideas that add value to stakeholders' own efforts and guide them toward effective policies and practices.

The Center's current areas of focus include: adult education and English instruction; preK-12 education; workforce preparation; citizenship and civic engagement; health; public benefits use; state and local immigration law enforcement; and translation and interpretation policy.

For more on the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy and its online resources, research, and other efforts visit:

www.migrationpolicy.org/integration