

E Pluribus Unum  
PRIZES



*Recognizing Exceptional  
U.S. Immigrant Integration Initiatives*

**Awards Ceremony**

MAY 18, 2010



DAR O'Byrne Gallery  
May 18, 2010

### Welcoming Remarks

**Demetrios Papademetriou**

President, MPI

### Opening Remarks

#### Presentation of the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes

**Michael Fix**

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

**Margie McHugh**

Co-Director, MPI National Center on  
Immigrant Integration Policy

#### 2010 Honorable Mention

**McDonald's Corporation**

Betsy McKay, Director of Bilingual Leadership

#### 2010 Winners

**Illinois New Americans Integration Initiative**

Grace Hou, Assistant Secretary of Programs,  
Illinois Department of Human Services

**Latino Community Credit Union**

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Board Chairman

**Tacoma Community House**

Liz Dunbar, Executive Director

**Upwardly Global**

Nicole Cicerani, Executive Director

### Closing Remarks

**Peter W. Davidson**

Chairman, J.M. Kaplan Fund



Dear Friends,

The J.M. Kaplan Fund proudly supports the second annual *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes, a joint effort with the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy at the Migration Policy Institute. Kaplan and MPI firmly believe that immigrants revitalize and rejuvenate America, and that America continues to provide remarkable opportunities to immigrants and to the US communities that receive them. Immigrant integration is a core part of America's narrative and a profound source of dynamism and growth.

My grandfather, the founder of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, was born to immigrant parents who had arrived in the United States only one year before. His devotion to the American civic virtues of hard work, open minds, and open arms permeates the work of the Kaplan Fund and animates our support of *E Pluribus Unum* and its exceptional awardees. We believe that these success stories of Americans welcoming new neighbors can inspire kindred efforts around the country.

We thank MPI, the hard-working members of the prize selection committee, and the thousands of good people around the country who shared their stories with us and with you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Peter W Davidson'.

Peter Davidson  
Chairman, J.M. Kaplan Fund



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for joining us at the second annual *E Pluribus Unum* awards ceremony as we celebrate one of our nation's most cherished ideals: *E Pluribus Unum* – “out of many, one.”

This prize program allows us to provide well-deserved recognition to a small number of truly outstanding immigrant integration initiatives. The talented leaders and innovators responsible for these programs are helping immigrants and their children adapt, thrive, and contribute to the United States and are bringing immigrants and the native born together to build stronger, more cohesive communities.

We were delighted and impressed with the hundreds of applications we received for this year's competition. 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 for their generous, continued support and our very dedicated and distinguished national Advisory Board for helping us through the selection process.

Most of all, we thank the extraordinarily strong pool of applicants and tonight's exceptional awardees – may your efforts to renew and realize America's promise continue to find the support and recognition they so richly deserve.

Sincerely,

Demetrios G. Papademetriou, PhD  
President, MPI

Michael Fix  
Senior Vice President and  
Director of Studies, MPI

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

# Illinois New Americans Integration Initiative

Grace Hou, Assistant Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services  
Lawrence Benito, Deputy Director, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights



The Illinois New Americans Integration Initiative is a partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) that makes immigrant integration a deliberate, strategic priority of the state. For nine years, the initiative has operated a set of programs ranging from helping 42,000 people become US citizens to making sure that an array of training and other services provided by the department are accessible to limited English proficient (LEP) customers.

The initiative's "We Want to Learn English" program offers vocational English training at Chicago city colleges and its Illinois Welcoming Center has helped nearly 5,000 people obtain the services, education, and information they need from other state agencies and community-based organizations.

The initiative has three main objectives: encouraging citizenship and community engagement, building public-private partnerships to promote immigrant integration with key actors across the state, and helping a major government agency update and streamline its systems to reflect the needs and strengths of new residents.

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For more on the Illinois New Americans Integration Initiative, visit:  
Illinois Department of Human Services at [www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=48867](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=48867)  
or the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights at <http://icirr.org>



# Latino Community Credit Union

Luis Pastor, CEO

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Board Chairman

The Latino Community Credit Union (LCCU), a member-owned nonprofit financial institution with ten branches across North Carolina, offers bilingual financial services and financial education to the Latino community and other unbanked consumers.



LCCU was created in 2000 as a grassroots response to a wave of crime against Latino immigrants in Durham caused by the perception that they did not have bank accounts, and thus carried larger sums of cash and kept money in their homes.

North Carolina's financial institutions were slow to meet the needs of this largely unbanked community, which was part of one of the fastest growing Latino populations in the country. LCCU became the first financial institution in the state to offer a comprehensive, accessible, and affordable package of financial services and education to the immigrant community, with sustained outreach and partnerships with community-based organizations, religious institutions, community colleges, and other organizations.

Since 2000, LCCU has grown to 54,000 members and has provided over \$127 million in financing to Latino immigrants as well as those from other countries. It also offers a highly successful financial education program targeted at low-income and unbanked immigrants with limited education. LCCU's range of products and services, available in English and Spanish, includes low-cost accounts, transaction services, consumer loans and mortgages, and web and phone account access. Recently, LCCU began offering micro-financing for individuals looking to start their own business.

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For more on the Latino Community Credit Union, visit:

[www.latinoccu.org](http://www.latinoccu.org)



# Tacoma Community House

Liz Dunbar, Executive Director



Founded a century ago to help 4,000 Italian immigrants and their children settle in the Puget Sound area, Tacoma Community House today works with immigrants and refugees from over 80 countries, helping them learn English, become US citizens, and contribute to the economic, cultural, and civic life of Washington State.

TCH provides adult English instruction, GED preparation, and citizenship classes; multilingual employment training; bilingual assistance in accessing social services such as housing, transportation, and child care; and bilingual support groups for victims of domestic violence – all available at one location. TCH's English programs host field trips to museums, farmers' markets, movie theaters, and other places where immigrants can practice their English in real-world settings and become more familiar with their new communities.

TCH also operates the statewide Literacy NOW program, which has trained more than 35,000 volunteers who have assisted an estimated 115,000 immigrants at local literacy organizations.

In addition to helping refugees and immigrants acquire the skills they need to integrate successfully, TCH has built strong networks with businesses, other organizations, and volunteers, creating a solid foundation of support in the community.

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For more on Tacoma Community House visit:

[www.tacomacommunityhouse.org](http://www.tacomacommunityhouse.org)



# Upwardly Global

Nicole Cicerani, Executive Director

Upwardly Global is a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization that provides job readiness training, career counseling, placement services, and mentoring to skilled immigrants and refugees. Too often, these immigrants and refugees find that the education and training they bring to the United States go to waste because of confusion on the part of employers and others regarding their education and work qualifications, and because of arcane and expensive relicensing processes.

In its ten years in operation, Upwardly Global's offices in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago have trained more than 2,000 jobseekers, and in the last three years have placed 450 in full-time, white-collar jobs with an average starting salary of more than \$40,000.



Upwardly Global works with immigrants from more than 100 countries, helping, for example, doctors and engineers who have fled Iraq to find jobs in their professional fields and navigate the arduous processes that face them as they seek to become licensed in the United States. The agency's extraordinary success owes in large part to its network of 800 volunteers, who mentor and provide peer-to-peer counseling with Upwardly Global participants.

Beginning with Illinois, Upwardly Global is also working to map licensing requirements and the process for accepting foreign educational and professional credentials for up to ten professions, as well as identifying alternative career paths for immigrants with substantial training in a particular field. The organization is doing similar work in California and New York.

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For more on Upwardly Global, visit:

[www.upwardlyglobal.org](http://www.upwardlyglobal.org)



# McDonald's Corporation

## English Under the Arches

Betsy McKay, Director of Bilingual Leadership



McDonald's English Under the Arches is an innovative workplace English instruction program that provides shift managers with the language skills they need to manage restaurant operations and staff.

Working with nationally recognized English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages (ESOL) experts, McDonald's developed a work-based English curriculum that helps immigrant workers gain on-the-job knowledge, skills, and confidence. Students participate simultaneously from their own restaurants, through the use of web-conferencing technology that allows them to connect with a teacher via phone and computer. Students also meet face-to-face and have the opportunity for independent study via an e-learning component. The free classes take place during working hours, helping the students to maintain work and family commitments.

McDonald's teams up with local community colleges to identify outstanding ESOL instructors interested in virtual teaching, and recruits and trains them on the curriculum through a dedicated Web site.

During its first three years, English Under the Arches has trained 500 students at 14 locations, posting an 85 percent graduation rate. Most graduates have received wage increases and have gained both valuable language skills and confidence in their abilities that will help them advance in their careers.

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For more on McDonald's Corporation, visit:  
[www.aboutmcdonalds.com/mcd](http://www.aboutmcdonalds.com/mcd)



We offer deep thanks to the experts in program evaluation and/or in immigrant integration and its various subfields who served on our Advisory Board:

**Angelo Amador**, Executive Director of Immigration Policy, US Chamber of Commerce

**Lina Avidan**, Program Executive, Zellerbach Family Foundation

**Solomon Belette**, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the East Bay

**Robert Bray**, Strategic Communications Director, Four Freedoms Fund

**Christine Thurlow Brenner**, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Administration and Director of Urban Studies, Rutgers University

**Ajay Chaudry**, Director, Center on Labor, Human Services and Population, Urban Institute

**Agnes Chiao**, Community Impact Director, Immigrant and Refugee Integration & Safety Net, United Way of Salt Lake

**Peter W. Davidson**, Chairman of the Board, J.M. Kaplan Fund

**Phyllis Eisen**, President, The Eisen Group: A Business Approach to Workforce Solutions

**Eugene García**, Vice President for Education Partnerships, Arizona State University

**Lourdes Gouveia**, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies of the Great Plains, University of Nebraska at Omaha

**J. D. Hokoyama**, President and CEO, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.

**Jim C. Hunt**, Councilman, City Council of Clarksburg, West Virginia and former President, National League of Cities

**Tamar Jacoby**, President and CEO, ImmigrationWorks USA

**Ngoan Le**, Vice President of Programs, Chicago Community Trust

**Lavinia Limón**, President, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

**Suzette Brooks Masters**, Program Specialist, Migrations Program, J.M. Kaplan Fund

**John Mollenkopf**, Director, Center for Urban Research, City University of New York

**Audrey Singer**, Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution

**Sheri Steisel**, Federal Affairs Counsel; Senior Director, Human Services and Welfare Committee; and Director, Human Services Policy, National Conference of State Legislatures

**Roberto Suro**, Professor, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California

**Andrew White**, Director, Center for New York City Affairs, The New School

**Heide Wrigley**, Senior Researcher, LiteracyWork International



## 2009 Winners



**AVANCE** – El Paso, Texas: AVANCE helps young Latino families break the cycle of poverty through programs in early childhood education, family literacy, parenting, adult literacy, and healthy marriages.

[www.avance-el Paso.org](http://www.avance-el Paso.org)



**City of Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative** – Littleton, Colorado: a bridge-building initiative created by civic and government leaders to connect native-born residents, city agencies, and new immigrants and their children who settle in the city.

[www.connectingimmigrants.org](http://www.connectingimmigrants.org)



**Internationals Network** – New York City: an innovative network of high schools that has an extraordinary record of successfully preparing recently arrived immigrant English language learners for college and career.

[www.internationalsnps.org](http://www.internationalsnps.org)



**Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition's Welcoming Tennessee Initiative** – Nashville: a proactive communications and public education campaign that addresses the need for informed and constructive public dialogue about immigration and its impacts in the state of Tennessee and its local communities.

[www.welcomingtn.org](http://www.welcomingtn.org)

## 2009 Finalists

**Latino Community Credit Union** – Durham, North Carolina: a model member-owned community banking program that builds the financial literacy skills of the local immigrant community and provides needed banking and related financial services.

[www.latinoccu.org](http://www.latinoccu.org)

**Queens Library** – Jamaica, New York: a public library in one of the most ethnically diverse counties in the United States which has systematically adapted its planning and programs to facilitate use of library services by immigrants and their children in order to build literacy and life skills.

[www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org)



JOIN US!

# MPI'S U.S. Immigrant Integration Network

## SHARING PROMISING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Join MPI's growing social network created for immigrant integration leaders and practitioners. The breadth and quality of the work of the hundreds of *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes applicants led us to create this social networking site. The Network allows leaders and practitioners in the immigrant integration field to learn more about each other's work and to share important information about the growth and quality of their efforts.

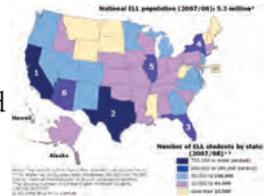
The U.S. Immigrant Integration Network is open to members. To apply for membership please send your request to [marciga@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:marciga@migrationpolicy.org).



COMING SOON!

## ELL Information Center

MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy is launching a new online ELL Information Center that will provide a wide range of information in an easy-to-understand format to bolster the efforts of those who are working to improve educational opportunities for these students.



The ELL Information Center will provide national and state-level data on ELLs via fact sheets, issue briefs, videos, and maps that cover a range of topics including their numbers and growth, academic performance, demographic profile, and more.

Visit the **ELL Information Center** at [www.migrationpolicy.org/ellinfo.html](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/ellinfo.html).



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:

DEMETRIOS G. PAPADEMETRIOU, President  
MICHAEL FIX, Senior Vice President and Co-Director,  
National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy  
MARGIE MCHUGH, Co-Director, National Center on  
Immigrant Integration Policy  
MONICA ARCIGA, Policy Analyst/Program Coordinator

[www.integrationawards.org](http://www.integrationawards.org)

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[www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org)