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For Immediate Release

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ST. LOUIS LAUNCHES CENTER FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT

*New Initiative Strengthens Efforts to Connect
Skilled Foreign-Born Individuals with Area Employers*

ST. LOUIS (April 5, 2016) The International Institute of St. Louis (IISTL) announced today that it has launched its new Center for Career Advancement to provide enhanced entrepreneur and career path services for skilled foreign-born individuals living in the St. Louis area.

The IICCA will offer combined services such as contextualized English language training for the health care and engineering fields, career pathway planning, and opportunities to engage with local professionals, to name a few. The IICCA will also house the Career Advancement for International Professionals program, which launched in 2015 and offers classroom-based training on job search skills.

“Foreign-born individuals living in the St. Louis area with college experience or college degrees bring a wealth of marketable skills to potential employers,” said Blake Hamilton, IISTL Senior Manager – Workforce Solutions. “The Center for Career Advancement links these highly-skilled individuals with training opportunities and resources to re-certify their professional credentials.”

“This program is all about helping to build the workforce that St. Louis’ companies need,” said Anna Crosslin, President & CEO of the Institute. “St. Louis needs these highly-skilled individuals working at area firms to help strengthen our local economy.”

Hamilton noted that Health Care and Engineering are two major industry sectors where St. Louis has authentic strengths. “We are recruiting from a base of immigrants, refugees and foreign students currently living in St. Louis. We are hopeful that foreign-born individuals throughout the nation will not only take advantage of this unique opportunity but that they will recognize St. Louis’ innovative, cutting-edge programming that strengthens our reputation as a welcoming community.”

*Immersion
Investment
Inclusion*

Hamilton added that he hopes that the unique services offered through the Center for Career Advancement will become a national model for combining career advancement and entrepreneurship initiatives.

The International Institute, established in 1919, is a pioneer in the field of diversity. Its comprehensive array of adjustment services reaches more than 7,500 immigrants and refugees from 75 countries, approximately 5% of the St. Louis City and County 2010 foreign-born population.

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