

NEWS RELEASE  
February 19, 2014  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Howell  
VP - Development and Communications  
The International Institute of St. Louis  
Phone: (314) 773-9090 ext. 189 | [howellk@iistl.org](mailto:howellk@iistl.org)



**The International Institute of St. Louis Launches New Program to Teach Local Immigrant Professionals the Nuances of Finding a Job.**

The International Institute of St. Louis is launching a new program for immigrant professionals to develop their career skills for entering the US workforce. The Career Advancement for International Professionals Program (CAIP) provides a four-week course aimed to teach immigrant professionals essential skills for job searching, including resume writing, interview and professional communication training, job search tactics and social media, recertification and credentialing, and practical application and role-playing. Betsy Cohen, Executive Director at the St. Louis Mosaic Project lauds this program for “ensuring that our foreign born population has the opportunity to fully contribute their talents and education to the St. Louis economy. To the International Institute’s credit, they recognized that there is a real need for this program in our community. As St. Louis continues to grow, programs like CAIP truly show that this region is an attractive place to move, and build a career.”

The breadth of the CAIP program goes beyond preparing resumes and becoming recertified, the International Institute has also partnered with St. Louis Regional Chamber to use the Professional Connector program. Originally started by the Mosaic Project, this program gives professionals an opportunity to meet with well-connected and global-minded professionals in St. Louis for industry and job-seeking advice over a meeting. The professional connector agrees to make an additional three introductions with other professionals. The St. Louis Regional Chamber has taken on this program.

An economic impact report done by former Saint Louis University Economics Professor Jack

Strauss indicated that immigrants are 130% more likely to have an advanced degree and three times more likely to be high-skilled. However, newly arriving professionals may have little knowledge of the nuances of the job hiring process in the US. The International Institute's goal of this new program is to not only educate and help prepare these professional for the US workforce, but to utilize their existing education and degrees earned in other countries. Ultimately the plan is to ensure that immigrant professionals can continue their careers and contribute to the needs of companies in St. Louis.

Tuition is \$489 for the CAIP program. Scholarship may be available on request. For more information, please contact Kelly More at 314-773-9090 x163 or [moorek@iistl.org](mailto:moorek@iistl.org)

#### About Saint Louis International Institute

The International Institute, established in 1919, is a pioneer in the field of diversity. In all our comprehensive array of adjustment services reaches more than 7,500 immigrants and refugees from 75 countries, approximately 8% of the St. Louis City and County 2010 foreign-born population.

As a result, the Institute has important multigenerational ties to local immigrant communities. Our programs and services are locally and nationally-acclaimed. We also have deep knowledge of the state of the immigrant communities and population trends. We serve as key consultants on a broad range of issues affecting the social, cultural and economic health of our region. Our mission is to help immigrants and their families become productive Americans and champion ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength.

#### About the St. Louis Mosaic Project

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report, outlining St. Louis to be lagging in immigrant growth as well as highlighting the economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project's goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. This regional initiative is managed by the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership., World Trade Center St. Louis and a 22- Member Committee.

For more information about The St. Louis Mosaic Project, please visit [www.StLMosaicProject.org](http://www.StLMosaicProject.org)