**Regional Prosperity Through Immigration and Innovation**

**Background:** In 2012, the William T. Kemper Foundation funded the report, “The Economic Impact of Immigration on St. Louis,” by Jack Strauss PhD, Director of the Simon Center for Regional Forecasting at Saint Louis University. The study was an urgent call to action for the St. Louis region. While St. Louis has considerable strengths, the region lacks several ingredients that are contributing to its economic stagnation. One such ingredient is the low representation of immigrants, compared to similarly-sized metropolitan areas in the United States. The study indicated St. Louis’ economy already has benefitted from immigrants as entrepreneurs, a talented workforce, and sources of new population. For the region to grow, St. Louis must attract and retain new residents, including immigrants.

St Louis Mosaic Project Region: How can we Jumpstart Growth?” which benchmarked St. Louis to 10 similar Midwestern regions. The study suggested better coordination between immigrant and business communities as well as better access to St. Louis resources. The study resulted in nine recommendations for St. Louis to attract immigrants. The Steering Committee is moving forward in five action areas.

**Goals: St. Louis 2025 — Fastest Growing U.S. Major Metropolitan Area for Immigration AND increase the foreign born regional population by 25,000, called our “25 by 25” Rally Cry!**

**Strategic Areas**

- Business & Talent Retention
- University Engagement
- Government Affairs
- Communication, Attraction
- Quality of Life

**Steering Committee**

The Strauss study was unveiled publicly in June 2012 and the St. Louis Regional Immigration & Innovation Steering Committee was formed. The 32-member steering committee is a diverse mix of regional business, civic, economic development, faith, agency and academic leaders. The committee analyzes the effects of immigration on the St. Louis region and builds support for local recommendations to attract, support and ultimately retain new citizens to spur growth and secure the economic future of St. Louis.

**Steering Committee Members**

- **Betsy Cohen** — Executive Director
- **Suzanne Sierra** — Senior Program Manager
- **Bomi Park** — Assistant Project Manager

- **Rodney Crim** — President, & CEO St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
- **Gay Burns** — Civic Progress Representative (EVPI HR at RGA)
- **Ethel Byndom** — Director, St. Louis County Community Empowerment Office for County Executive
- **Luis Campedelli** — Executive Vice President, Human Resources, Mastercard
- **Liane Constantine** — Interim Executive Director, UMSL Global, University of Missouri St. Louis
- **Anna Crosslin** — President & CEO, International Institute of St. Louis
- **Bill Cummings** — Head of Service Operations & Engineering, Refinitiv
- **Anna Dibble** — VP for Human Resources, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
- **Bob Fox** — Founder and Recent Past Chair, Casa de Salud
- **Renee Franklin** — Director of Audience Development, St. Louis Art Museum, President of St. Louis Sister Cities
- **Anthony Gonzalez-Angel** — Partner, Tota Investments, RBC representative
- **Abdulatif Hamad** — Professor of Physics, Intl Student liaison at SIUE
- **Sharon Harvey Davis** — Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, Ameren
- **Molly Hyland** — Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank
- **Jeffery Jackson** — Associate Provost for Career Development, Saint Louis University
- **Kyle Klem** — Office of St. Louis City Mayor
- **Edward S. Macias** — Casa de Salud, Board Chair
- **Julia Macias** — Asst. Dean, Office of Scholar Programs, Director, Annika Rodriguez Scholars Program, Washington University
- **Debbie Monterrey** — News Anchor/Reporter, KMOX AM1120
- **Melanie Moore** — Sr. Director Global Talent, Inclusion, Bayer
- **Javier Orozco** — Interfaith Partnership Cabinet Representative (Archidiocese)
- **Kathleen “Kitty” Ratcliffe** — President, St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission
- **Kathy Reeves** — Assistant Vice President, Corporate Community Relations, Enterprise Holdings
- **Liesl Schore** — Global HR, MilliporeSigma
- **Julian Schuster** — Provost and Senior Vice President, Webster University
- **Mark Sutherland** — VP of Market Strategies, Missouri Partnership
- **Peter Tao** — Co-founder, TAO + LEE
- **Mulugheta Teferi** — Vice President of Strategic Planning & Grants Management, Urban League STL
- **Ted M. Zimmerman** — VP, Bi-State Development

**Advisors to the Steering Committee**

- **Kathy Osborn** — Executive Director, The Regional Business Council (RBC)
- **Tom Santel** — Executive Director, Civic Progress
- **Tim Nowak** — Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis