

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2015

CONTACT:

Betsy Cohen

The St. Louis Mosaic Project

7733 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 2200

(314) 615-8107 | ecohen@worldtradecenter-stl.com

**ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT JOINS WE GLOBAL NETWORK TO SUPPORT
IMMIGRANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN AMERICA'S RUST
BELT**

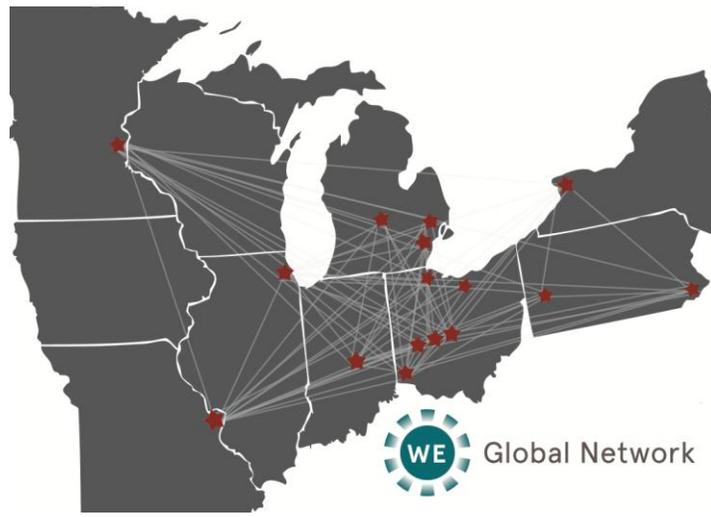


Global Network

The WE Global Network is a regional network of immigrant economic development organizations working in cities and regions across the Midwest. The Network is designed to strengthen the work, maximize the impact, and sustain the efforts of individual local initiatives across the region that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities as valued contributors to local economies. The Network, a project of Welcoming America in partnership with Global Detroit, is comprised of over a dozen regional economic development initiatives from across the Midwest working to tap into the economic development opportunities created by immigrants. The St. Louis Mosaic Project is proud to be a member of this impactful network.

St. Louis Mosaic Project Executive Director Betsy Cohen shares that “this announcement is phenomenal because it truly shows the breadth of support for welcoming and embracing our immigrant communities across the country. It reaffirms that immigrant communities are assets and contribute to the economic opportunities in our region. It is important to understand that integrating immigrants into the economic and social fabric of a region helps make it more economically competitive and socially attractive.” The St. Louis Mosaic Project recently won the Arcus Award for an Achievement in Inclusion & Talent Attraction for its Professional Connector Program. Recognized by the St. Louis Regional Chamber, Arcus Awards are given to companies and organizations that make the St. Louis region a better place to live, work and invest.

As regional leaders of immigrant innovation, the WE Global Network is comprised of local immigrant economic development organizations working in 10 states to promote immigrants as valued contributors to local economies. [Members of the network](#) benefit from peer-to-peer learning exchanges, policy and research tools developed for immigrant economic development organizations, access to technical assistance, and other capacity building resources.



The WE Global Network launch comes on the heels of yesterday's White House release of a report featuring these efforts as a national best practice. Created by the White House Task Force on New Americans, the report affirms that immigrants and refugees contribute significantly to the United States' continued economic prosperity and are also critical to our country's social and cultural fabric. The Task Force is an interagency effort to develop a coordinated federal strategy to better integrate immigrants and refugees and build welcoming communities. The report will be available at: www.whitehouse.gov/new-americans.

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 professionally 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

About Welcoming America

Welcoming America, which recently received recognition from the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations through the 2014 Intercultural Innovation Award, is a national nonprofit that helps communities across the country reach their full economic and social potential by becoming more welcoming toward immigrants. Welcoming America brings together a broad network of non-profits and local governments from across the U.S. and strengthens their work with the know-how, tools and incentives they need to transform their communities in to vibrant, prosperous places where all residents can contribute. To find out more, visit www.welcomingamerica.org.

About Global Detroit

Global Detroit is a national leader in immigrant economic development and is recognized for its powerful contribution to Detroit's rebirth. Global Detroit has received recognition for its work in a variety of national publications (Washington Post, National Journal, Wall Street Journal, Governing Magazine) and a featured presenter for leading organizations in the fields of immigration and urban development (National League of Cities, Migration Policy Institute, National Immigration Forum, Federal Reserve Bank). Since 2010, Global Detroit has helped connect over \$7 million in philanthropic, corporate, and government investments to over half a dozen local initiatives. These partner initiatives include the Michigan Global Talent Retention Initiative, Upwardly Global, ProsperUS Detroit, Cultural Ambassadors, Welcoming Michigan – Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, and Welcome Mat Detroit. For further information on Global Detroit, visit www.globaldetroit.com.

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