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 In June 2013, Dr. Strauss completed a second study titled "Immigration Recommendations for St. Louis 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.

Results/Impact: Since 2012, Mosaic and regional partners have seen the STL metro add 12,500 foreign-born to the region. This is the result of Mosaic programs and the ecosystem collaboration, plus media and grassroots outreach.

Steering Committee

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.

Goal: Maintain St. Louis' ranking as the #1 fastest growing major metro for immigration thru 2030, and drive initiatives that expand and retain our global talent pool as a cornerstone of regional economic growth.

Strategic Areas Business & Talent Communication, **University Engagement Government Affairs** Quality of Life Attraction & Retention Attraction With Ethnic Chambers, With elected officials With Greater St. Louis With Greater St. Louis With University International Institute, Leaders, Business and Greater St. louis Inc., Ethnic Chambers, Inc., Regional Business International Women's Inc., Int'l Institute, Regional Council, Int'l Institute **Partners & Regional Economic Development Connector Programs** Workforce Solutions & **Business Council** Educate at local, state, national level about Partners Support & help develop Ethnic Chambers Attract and support inclusive & accessible economic value of Raise the profile of STL Use innovative international students region on a regional level, programs/services for strategies to match for earlier and deeper immigrants. Track showing actions of foreign born talent with legislative bills that immigrants in: legal, integration into the inclusion and welcoming. opportunities and health, finance, housing, impact welcoming community with the Emphasis transportation, safety, encourage goal of keeping more in foreign born. Work with on Ambassadors. India & entrepreneurship. faith, sports, arts others to impact local needed regional jobs. Latino outreach, social & Leverage data and new changes on policies and Educate employers on traditional media outreach best practice research for procurement at local hiring methods. and grassroots efforts. level for contracts. regional growth.

Suzanne Sierra—Executive Director Annie Mbale—Program Manager

Steering Committee Chair

Rodney Crim – President, & CEO St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Steering Committee Members

Carlos Tasso E. Aquino —- Interim Dean , Webster University Dr. Michael Brown — Strategic Planning, Urban League STL Scott Chase — Head of St. Louis Operations, MilliporeSigma Samrat Ray Chaudhuri — Asst. Vice Pres., Webster University Anna Crosslin — Co-Founder of Mosaic Project Nisha Dharna — HR Partner Lead, NA Crop Science, Bayer Anna Dibble — VP for People & Culture, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Trezette Dixon — Sr. Director, Fellows Experience, Greater St. Louis Inc 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 Abdullatif Hamad — Professor of Physics, Int'l Student liaison at SIUE Blake Hamilton—Interim CEO, International Institute of St. Louis Molly Hyland — Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank

Jessica Lynn Hylton — Director, Internationalization Strategies and International Student and Scholar Services, UMSL

Luchen Li — Assoc. VP Global Engagement, International Enrollment, SLU Edward S. Macias — Casa de Salud, Board Chair

Debbie Monterrey — News Anchor/Reporter, KMOX AM 1120

Kenny Murdock — Director of the County Executive's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Alicia Myles-Wartts — Dir., Learning & Develop. Bi-State Development Dan Nielsen — VP Global Talent Acquisition, RGA

F. Javier Orozco — Executive Director, Human Dignity & Intercultural Affairs, Archdiocese of St. Louis

Gilberto Pinela — Director Office of New Americans, City of St. Louis Sekhar Prabhakar — Chief Executive Officer, CEdge

Deborah Price — VP Bus. Recruitment, Gen. Counsel Missouri Partnership Kathy Reeves — Assistant Vice President, Corporate Community Relations, Enterprise Holdings

Aarti Sharma — Vice President, Tech Ops and Service Delivery, Mastercard Jack Sisk — Board President, Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis Ed Skapinok — Chief Commercial Officer, Explore St. Louis

Crystal Smith — Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Ameren

Mike Tang — Sr. Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Emerson Peter Tao – Co-founder, TAO + LEE

Roumy Theunissen—Director, Global Communications & Outreach, Office of the Provost - WashU

Alicia Myles-Wartts — - Director – Learning and Development, Bi-State Development

Advisors to the Steering Committee

Karen Branding – President & CEO, Regional Business Council (RBC) Tim Nowak – Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis