THE GROWING MOVEMENT OF IMMIGRANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEADING RUST BELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION
Immigrant communities are central to expanding economic opportunity and revitalizing the entire region.

Welcoming immigrants into the economic and social fabric of a region helps to make that region more socially vibrant for everyone.

Regional economic development initiatives can play a role not just in attracting immigrants, but also in retaining them and in enhancing their role in the community’s economic and social fabric.
Immigrants and Entrepreneurship

- Nationally, immigrants start businesses at twice the rate of native born Americans.

- More than 40% of the 2010 Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, employing more than 10 million people worldwide.

- These companies boast revenues of $4.2 trillion – a figure greater than the GDP of every country in the world except the U.S., China, and Japan.

- 7 of the 10 most valuable brands in the world come from American companies founded by immigrants or their children of immigrants.
Immigrant-Founded Companies
IMMIGRANTS COMPRISED ALMOST ALL NET MAIN STREET BUSINESS GROWTH 2000-2013

IMMIGRANTS POWER AMERICA'S MAIN STREETS

- Population: 13%
- Labor Force: 16%
- Business Owners: 18%
- Main Street Business Owners: 28%

IMMIGRANTS POWER AMERICA'S MAIN STREETS

58% of DRY CLEANERS

38% of RESTAURANTS

28% of DEPARTMENT and DISCOUNT STORES

53% of GROCERY STORES

32% of CLOTHING STORES

25% of ELECTRONICS, RADIO, TELEVISION, and COMPUTER STORES

IMMIGRANTS CRITICAL TO AMERICA’S HIGH-TECH STARTUP COMMUNITY

25% of all high-tech firms nationally

52% of all high-tech firms in Silicon Valley

founded between 1995-2005 have an immigrant founder

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MAKE UP

70% of graduate students enrolled in Master’s or Ph.D. programs in electrical engineering

45% of all new Ph.Ds in life, computer, and physical sciences

40% of all new master degrees in computer and physical sciences, and engineering

50% of all new Ph.Ds in engineering

Source: “Recruiting the Tired, the Poor, and the Wretched Refuse,” Journal of Corporate Recruiting Leadership, September 2008, p. 18; "The Importance of International Students to America" July 2013 Brief by National Foundation for American Policy
Education profiles of immigrants vary by metropolitan area due to historical settlement patterns and industry composition.

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of 2009 ACS data
79 percent of the foreign-born are working age.

Source: Brookings analysis of 2010 ACS 1-year estimates; microdata, accessed via IPUMS.org
GUIDE TO IMMIGRANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WELCOMING AMERICA
The WE Global Network ‘Toolkit’

- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RETENTION
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- HIGHLY-SKILLED WORKER INITIATIVES
- CONNECTOR PROGRAMS
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- IMMIGRANT INVESTOR VISAS
- EXPORT PROMOTION
- CORPORATE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
- IMMIGRANT HOMEOWNERSHIP
- URBAN AGRICULTURE
- INTEGRATION SERVICES
Impact in Allegheny County PA

- Immigrants contributed $6.8 billion to GDP and $217 million in state and local taxes.
- Immigrants held $1.8 billion in spending power, 6.3 percent of the county’s total spending power. Asian immigrants contributed $912 million; Latino immigrants contributed $108 million.
- Between 2000 and 2014, growth in the foreign-born population increased the total housing value in Allegheny County by more than $1 billion.
- In 2014, 1 in 15 U.S.-born workers was self-employed, but 1 in 10 foreign-born residents in Allegheny County was self-employed.
- In 2012, businesses owned by Latino residents had $248 million in sales and 1,216 paid employees.
In the fall of 2014, the City of Pittsburgh hosted 8,857 students on temporary resident visas. These international students boosted the city’s economy by supporting 5,624 local jobs and contributing $338 million in spending.

Because immigrants in the workforce help companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, immigrants in Allegheny County helped create or preserve 2,893 local manufacturing jobs that would have otherwise vanished or moved.

The Pittsburgh region’s population slightly declined by 0.1 percent between 2009 and 2014, decreasing from 2,571,680 to 2,569,558. However, during this time the foreign-born population increased by 7.9 percent, from 76,286 to 82,308, helping offset this decline.

In 2014, a vast majority (83.5 percent) of the foreign-born population in Allegheny County had lived there for more than a year.
The Contributions of New Americans in New York
How does Buffalo fit into this picture?

- Population decline
- Poverty
- Loss of heavy industry
- Vacant housing
- Segregation

....and yet

- Affordable housing
- Jobs
- Support services and agencies
Population in Buffalo
(immigrants are the top part of the bar)

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Immigrants in Buffalo

- Diverse foreign born communities
- Strong ethnic immigration history
- Existing service infrastructure: some agencies active for 100 years – refugee resettlement since 1975
- Welcoming community
- NYS investment in economy

- Brookings: Buffalo as high skilled/high educated historic immigrant ‘gateway’
Buffalo’s Foreign-Born Residents

2000

- Northern America: 8%
- Latin America: 17%
- Africa: 10%
- Asia: 30%
- Europe: 35%
- Oceania: 0.05%

2008-2012

- Northern America: 5%
- Latin America: 19%
- Africa: 18%
- Asia: 36%
- Europe: 20%
- Oceania: 0.4%
The 68,000 foreign born in Buffalo hail from many places. They are mostly from Canada, Asia, Europe and Africa. Many fewer come from Latin America.

### Place of Origin for Immigrants in Buffalo Metro Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>6,804</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>4,818</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma (Myanmar)</td>
<td>4,574</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>3,564</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3,260</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen Arab Republic (North)</td>
<td>2,413</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>2,311</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>2,169</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>2,053</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1,983</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1,879</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1,841</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,469</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa (country not specified)</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>1,105</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1,072</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom (country not specified)</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana/British Guiana</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 top places of birth</td>
<td>50,677</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>17,152</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>67,829</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis ACS 2013 5-year data.
Immigrants Work in a Wide Range of Jobs Across the Skills Spectrum

In Metro Buffalo, for example, immigrants are over-represented among doctors, engineers, teachers, and sales clerks as well as among household help, mechanics, and machine operators.

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis ACS 2013 5-year data.
How Has Buffalo Changed?

- Small uptick in Erie County population – attributed to immigrants
- Workforce opportunities increasing because of NYS investment in corporate location
- City neighborhoods strengthening – small business/Main Street business opportunities
- Increased interest and support for refugees and immigrants – new city Office of New Americans, County Advisory Board
First population increase since the 1960s

Immigrants end the decline in Erie County population

Large refugee influx leads to first increase since 1960s

By Jerry Zremski | News Washington Bureau Chief | @JerryZremski | Google+
on March 26, 2015 - 2:10 AM, updated March 26, 2015 at 2:13 AM

WASHINGTON — Erie County's population has started to grow slightly again after decades of decline, and it's almost entirely because so many people are moving to town from overseas.

The county's population as of last April was 929,835, an increase of 0.4 percent from the 2010 census, according to a new set of county population estimates released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.
Karen Wrist Tying Day
Buffalo Eid al-Adha Celebration
Things that ARE happening in Buffalo

- IIB Welcoming Buffalo Program
- Buffalo is now a Welcoming City
- Buffalo has an Office of New Americans (only one in the state besides NYC)
- Immigrant and Refugee Roundtable
- NYS ONA Citizenship ESL program
- Advocacy in collaboration with NYIC -> NYS immigrant agenda
- Increasing employment impact, especially in manufacturing
What Does A City Need?

The Basics: WEGN Toolkit Preconditions

- Broad coalition of actors invested in the effort, including philanthropy, business, NGOs and government
- Consensus around positive economic impact of immigrants and refugees
- Community-wide planning process, data and impact
- Community conversations
The International Institute of Buffalo

- 1918 – War Brides
- 1923 – Girls and women
- 1930 – Men too
- 1980 – US government refugee resettlement
- 2007 – human trafficking program
- Today: Refugee resettlement, immigrant employment, interpretation/translation, survivor support, education/visitors
- Services, advocacy, economic programming
The International Institute of Buffalo

- A belief in the unlimited power of human beings to change community
- A belief that diverse Buffalo is strong and vibrant Buffalo
- Immigrants and refugees as economic and community asset

“Making WNY a better place for, and because of, immigrants and refugees.”
It isn’t just about the foreign born.

It’s about us too.