

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
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Mayor Joe Hogsett, Immigrant Welcome Center Recognize Inclusive Local Companies

"Welcoming Workplaces" awarded for language access resources

INDIANAPOLIS – Today Mayor Joe Hogsett joined the Immigrant Welcome Center for the "Welcoming Workplaces" awards ceremony to honor local firms' dedicated to inclusion. The 15 recipients participating the ceremony were recognized for their focus on language access, including offering free on-site English classes for employees within the past three years. The English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) providers that partnered with companies to deliver instruction were also recognized.

"Our diversity is our strength, and it is important that we recognize our local business leaders who prioritize inclusivity within their companies," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "Language access is a difference-maker in ensuring that all members of the Indianapolis community feel welcomed in their workplace. We hope that companies throughout our city and our region follow the lead of those we recognize today."

Today's event is part of a national Welcoming Week celebration led by the Ad Council and the American Immigration Council's Center for Inclusion and Belonging. Locally, the Immigrant Welcome Center and its partners is holding numerous events and programming that celebrate the values that unite the Indianapolis community and make it more welcoming to all those who call Indianapolis and Central Indiana home.

"Recognizing the innovation of these employers is the first step towards increasing awareness among business leaders across multiple industries that when their immigrant employees can communicate in English, their rates of productivity increase due to better understanding of business goals, systems, and safety standards and protocols. And as English skills improve, error and turnover rates decline. I am grateful to these businesses and the City of Indianapolis for this opportunity," said Gurinder Hohl, CEO of Immigrant Welcome Center.

Welcoming Week is taking place September 10-19. Under the theme of "Belonging Begins with Us," Immigrant Welcome Center will be hosting events that celebrate all our unique cultures and diversity. More information on Welcoming Workplaces and other upcoming events can be found on the Immigrant Welcome Center [website](#).

Pictures of the event are available [here](#).



A list of awards and recipients is below:

The Global Educator award is awarded to English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) providers who partnered with companies to deliver on-site English instruction.

- *Warren Township Adult Education*
- *International Center for Intercultural Communication*
- *Indy Reads*
- *Washington Township Adult Education*
- *Central Nine Career Center*
- *LUNA Language Services*

The Global Ally award is awarded to companies who have invested in their immigrant employees by providing on-site English classes for their employees before or after shifts.

- *Adidas*
- *Morales Group*
- *Heartland Food Products Group*
- *ULTA Beauty*
- *Amazon*
- *Telamon*

The Global Changemaker award is awarded to companies who have invested in their immigrant employees by providing on-site English classes during the employees' shifts.

- *SMC Corporation*
- *DiscountFilters.com*
- *GEODIS*

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About Immigrant Welcome Center

Immigrant Welcome Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Indy's immigrants by connecting them to the people, places, and resources they need in order to thrive. Established in 2006 by former First Lady of Indianapolis Amy Minick Peterson, our mission is to be a trusted partner and advocate for all immigrants. We support this mission by offering programs and services that address the following focus areas: Immigrant and Refugee Support, Naturalization and Legal Assistance, English Language Literacy, and Community Partner Support. Learn more at www.immigrantwelcomecenter.org.

