

POLICY AND DEMOGRAPHICS IN RHODE ISLAND

IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A Policy Forum

Effective and just public policy is the result of systematic and scientific understanding of an issue. The purpose of this symposium is to engage the Rhode Island community, its leaders and its academics in a data-driven discussion of immigrants and immigration.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 133,000 Rhode Island residents or 12.5% of the state are foreign-born. According to the Pew Center, 20,000-30,000 of the state's foreign-born residents are unauthorized immigrants. In this forum, we will discuss Rhode Islanders' views and attitudes toward immigrants and immigration policy in the state.

Advocacy & Outreach

Increasing our understanding of immigration and how best to assist in the integration of immigrant populations in our midst requires the development of renewed thought leadership, political leadership and advocacy support in the community.

The goal is to bring together academics, political leaders,

This discussion will be based on a new public opinion survey conducted by Brown University's Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions.

This symposium will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Brown University. The location for the event is McMillan Hall, 167 Thayer St., Providence, Room 117. The symposium will start at 10:00 am and continue through the afternoon. Interpreting to and from Spanish will be available to participants. Lunch will be offered. The whole program is free and open to the public. **WELH 88.1 FM will be broadcasting the event live.**

business people and the advocacy and social services world in a constructive discussion of immigration issues. Together, we need to increase awareness of the special concerns associated with immigration, the benefits that immigrants produce for our state and the impact of demographic change and the aging of Rhode Island's population.

KEY SPONSORS

This conference would not have been possible without the generous support of:

- *the Rhode Island Foundation*
- *the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*
- *the Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions.*

This event represents the joint effort of:

- *the Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions*
- *the Center for the Study of Human Development*
- *the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, all at Brown University.*

We thank them and all our other sponsors (listed on the back of the program) for their support.



Research & Education

Effective reform begins with information and education. Awareness is the initial step toward understanding. Understanding reveals opportunity which is the precursor to action. Successful immigrant policies depend on the collaboration across groups and individuals with an in-depth understanding of the issues and the communities involved.

Who Should Attend?

Public Sector Leaders: This symposium is an opportunity for policymakers to share ideas, build relationships and learn about cutting edge research in the area of immigration policy. Our expert panelists include some of the most prominent scholars working in the field of immigration studies.

Private Sector Leaders: Immigrants represent one-in-seven workers (about 23 million workers) in the American labor force. New immigrants, those who entered the country since 1990, account for more than 50 percent of the growth in the labor force. By 2015, immigrants will make up almost half of the work age population in the United States. Rhode Island's private sector employs both high skilled and low skilled immigrants and depends on them. This symposium provides private sector leaders with an opportunity to voice their opinion about immigration policy options and proposals that would help with economic development.

Community Leaders: Participation in this symposium will provide leaders from various communities in the state to interact with each other, share views and ideas, and network. It will also be an opportunity to access the latest research on immigration and develop working relationships with members of academia.

Members of the public: This is an opportunity for Rhode Islanders to learn about immigration issues and to voice their questions and concerns to our leaders and to experts.

To RSVP for the conference, please call Gustavo Rosa at (401) 863-3446 or via email Gustavo_rosa@brown.edu.



PROGRAM OUTLINE

10:00AM-6:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

Welcoming Remarks:

Mr. O. Heleen, Rhode Island Foundation
Dr. Ruth Simmons, President, Brown University

Keynote Address:

The Most Rev. Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence

Survey Results Presentation:

Dr. Marion Orr, Brown University
Dr. Alexandra Filindra, Brown University

Expert Panel on Immigration:

Dr. Michael A. Olivas, President of the American Association of Law Schools and Professor of Law at the University of Houston

Dr. M. Daniel Carroll, Professor of the Old Testament, Denver Seminary

Dr. George Borts, Professor of Economics, Brown University

Dr. Cynthia Garcia Coll, Professor of Education, Brown University

Dr. Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Professor of History, Brown University

Moderator: Dr. Tony Affigne, Providence College

Our Leaders & Communities Speak:

Hon. Juan Pichardo, Rhode Island State Senator

Hon. Edith Ajello, Rhode Island State Representative

Hon. David Riccio, U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Hon. Roberto Gonzalez, Immigration Attorney

Rev. Matthew Kai, Ministers Alliance

Mr. James Vincent, President, NAACP

Ms. Molly Soum, Genesis Center

Dr. N. Zawia, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Rhode Island

Moderator: Dr. Marion Orr, Brown University

Our Sponsors

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