



February 24, 2017

Cabrini University

PHENND



Staff

Hillary Kane

Director

Eden Kainer

VISTA Program Manager

Caitlin Fritz

K-16 Partnerships Manager

Daisy Villa

Next Steps Program Coordinator

Stephanie Pennypacker

AmeriCorps VISTA Leader

Edward Cheon

MSW Intern, GEAR UP Coordinator

Angela Li

Intern

PHENND Steering Committee

Dr. Ira Harkavy

Director, Netter Center for Community Partnerships
University of Pennsylvania

Nell Anderson

Director of Community Partnerships and Praxis
Bryn Mawr College

Dr. Jennifer Johnson Kebea

Executive Director, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement
Drexel University

Dr. Nyeema Watson

Assistant Chancellor for Civic Engagement
Rutgers University at Camden

Gretchen Mielke

Assistant Dean for Civic Engagement
Widener University

Ann Marie Keffer

Director, Faith-Justice Institute
Saint Joseph's University

Arto Woodley

Scholar-in-Residence
Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility
Swarthmore College

About PHENND

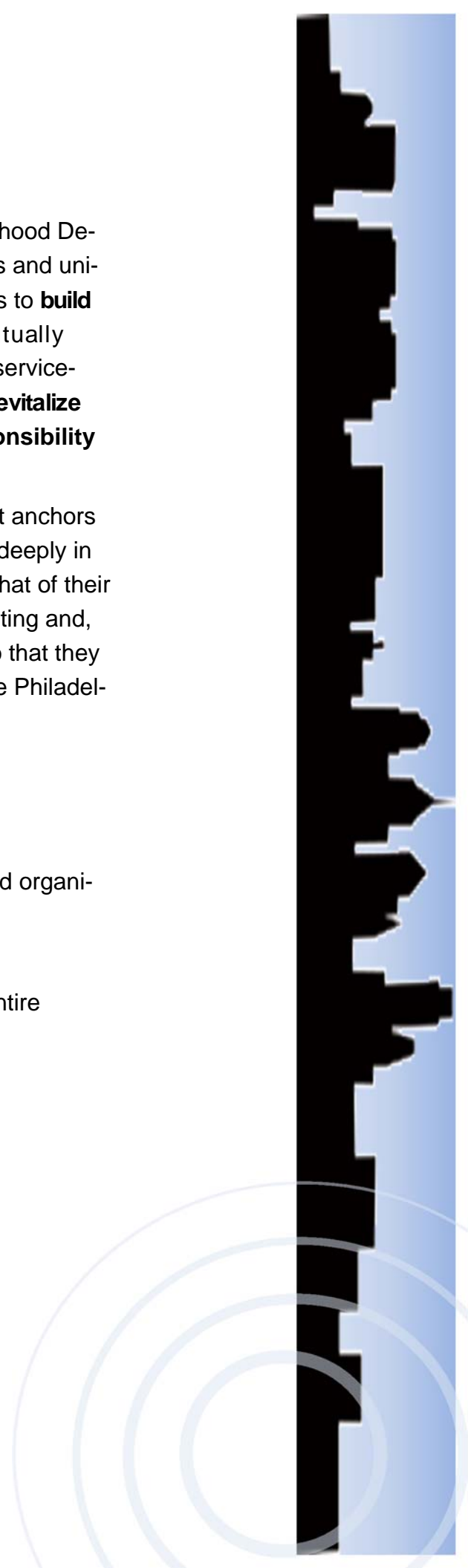
The Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) is a consortium of over 25 colleges and universities in the greater Philadelphia area. PHENND works to **build the capacity** of its member institutions to develop mutually beneficial, sustained, and democratic community-based service-learning partnerships. The consortium actively seeks to **revitalize local communities and schools** and **foster civic responsibility** among the region's colleges and universities.

Higher educational institutions can function as permanent anchors and partners for community improvement. Moreover it is deeply in their interests to do so; their futures are intertwined with that of their neighborhoods. PHENND provides a vehicle for coordinating and, where appropriate, combining the efforts of higher eds so that they can make a significant contribution to improving the entire Philadelphia region.

Acknowledgements

PHENND would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for helping make this conference a success.

- Thomas Southard of the Wolfington Center and the entire Cabrini University community;
- Keynote speaker Teresita Wisell; and
- All of our many workshop presenters.



Detailed Agenda

8:15 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast (Grace Hall Atrium)

9:00 AM Welcome and Opening (Grace Hall Atrium)

- Hillary Kane, Director, PHENND
- Dr. Donald Taylor, President, Cabrini University

9:20 AM Opening Panel (Grace Hall Atrium)

Immigration State of the Region: The New Political Context

- Oni Richards, Executive Director, African Family Health Organization
- Nina Ahmad, Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement, City of Philadelphia
- Maria Sotomayor, Organizer and Civic Engagement Coordinator, Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
- Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, Director of Upskilling Policy, National Skills Coalition
- Moderator: Patience Lehrman, Special Assistant to the Dean, Strategic Partnerships and Community Affairs, College of Education, Temple University

10:20 AM Break

10:30 AM Workshop Series I

- Improving academic achievement and sustainability DACA - The New Political Environment: Potential Issues (Iadarola Lecture Hall)
- From Darkness to Light: Equipping Undocumented Students and Staff for Higher Ed (Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A)
- Building Bridges of Learning: A Service-Learning partnership between Puentes de Salud and St. Joseph's University (Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B)
- Domestic Violence in Asian Immigrant and Refugee Communities (Iadarola 312)

- Making One's home in Philadelphia as Sudanese, Muslim and American (Iadarola 117A)

12:00 PM Lunch (Grace Hall Atrium)

Welcoming remarks from Dr. Jeff Gingerich, Provost, Cabrini University

Keynote Speaker: Teresita Wisell, Executive Director, Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education and Vice President, Workforce Development and Community Education, West Chester Community College

1:45 PM Workshop Series II

- Community Striving for Mutuality: Re-Imagining Community/University Service Learning Experiences (Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A)
- Southeast by Southeast: Building Behavioral Health through Arts, Coalitions, and Wellness (Iadarola Lecture Hall)
- Free Tax Return Preparation for Unauthorized Immigrants as a Gateway to Asset Building (Iadarola 117A)
- Undergraduate Showcase: Two mini-sessions: Undocumented Immigrant Healthcare Access in Philadelphia and screening/discussion of *Taste of Home*, a student-made film (Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B)

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM Workshop Series III

- The Global Nextdoor: Migration Studies at Haverford College (Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B)
- Teen Transition and Socialization into School and Community (Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A)
- Adult Education and Employment: An Integrated Model (Iadarola Lecture Hall)

4:30 PM Conference Ends

Keynote Speaker

Teresita Wisell

Teresita (Tere) Wisell serves as Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education (WDCE) for West Chester Community College. The Division houses programs and services that support workforce development and lifelong learning for the diverse population of the college's service area. Programs include ESL, public workforce training programs, employee training and training-related services to employers, leisure and enrichment courses and other programs supporting student success and community and business engagement. In addition, the Division oversees the college's extension locations offering credit and non-credit courses throughout the county.

Ms. Wisell also serves as Executive Director of the Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education (CCCIE), a national network of community colleges and other organizations committed to expanding programs for immigrants and leveraging the role that community colleges play in successful immigrant integration. In 2014, the White House recognized Ms. Wisell as a Champion of Change for her contributions to workplace citizenship programs. She is a National Community College Hispanic Council fellow and a SUNY Chancellor's award recipient. Ms. Wisell serves on the Board of the National Council for Workforce Education and on the National Advisory Board of the National Skills Coalition for Skills Equity. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and an MBA in Marketing.



Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Series I: 10:30-11:45 AM

DACA - The New Political Environment: Potential Issues

[Iadarola Lecture Hall](#)

(Nataliya Rymer, Esq., Greenberg Traurig LLP and Eric Rosenfeld, Director, International Professionals Program, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

Participants will learn the latest developments with respect to the DACA program and the potential effect of these developments on students who obtained work and travel authorization through DACA. The panel will discuss other latest immigration-related developments and their effects on students, faculty, and staff.

From Darkness to Light: Equipping Undocumented Students and Staff for Higher Ed

[Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A](#)

(Stephanie R. Brown, Assistant Director, Academic Discovery Program and Adjunct Professor, LaSalle University)

Undocumented children and youth experience systematic barriers that block their education trajectory toward higher education. Despite these barriers, about sixty-five thousand undocumented students who have lived in the United States for five years or longer graduate from high school each year (Pew Research, 2003). What can college advisors, faculty and community organizations do to increase the education trajectory of undocumented students and help them persist through

higher education? This presentation will explore the unique perspective of undocumented students, identify what specific academic support services promote persistence through higher education and examine strategies that can support undocumented students at your organization.

Building Bridges of Learning: A Service-Learning partnership between Puentes de Salud and St. Joseph's University

[Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B](#)

(Alexandra Wolkoff, Director of Education, Puentes de Salud and Ella Guimond, Service-Learning Placement Coordinator, Faith-Justice Institute, St. Joseph's University)

Through this interactive presentation, our hope is to highlight the mission of a community-centered wellness organization in Philadelphia, Puentes de Salud, and the services it offers for the Latino immigrant population in Philadelphia. We will then highlight the Service-Learning program through the Faith-Justice Institute at St. Joseph's University, and how the two partner together to provide an engaging and thought-provoking learning experience for students. We will explore how the SJU Service-Learning students engage with Puentes de Salud's education work to develop a deeper understanding of immigrant communities in Philadelphia and the social factors that affect children's

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Series I: 10:30-11:45 AM

health, education, and life course. Finally, we will highlight the positive aspects of the experience alongside some of challenges of the service-learning model, in addition to our own thoughts on how to improve the outcomes for participants both at Puentes de Salud and at St. Joseph's University. Throughout, we would like to engage the participants in attendance about their insights and experiences as related this case study. The session will provide people a time to actively brainstorm and work together to discuss questions they are bringing with them related to community service-learning and partnerships.

Domestic Violence in Asian Immigrant and Refugee Communities (SEAMAAC)

ladarola 312

(Lauren Pongan, Health & Family Wellness Programs Coordinator; Amy Jones, MSW, LSW, Director of Health & Social Services and Nang Tin Tin Htwe, Burmese Outreach Worker; SEAMAAC)

In this session, SEAMAAC will share some of its best practices from working with Asian immigrant and refugee Domestic Violence survivors in South Philadelphia through our Safe Families Program. In addition to covering some basic definitions of domestic violence, this session will discuss considerations of culture versus abuse within immigrant and refugee communities. In addition, we will share ways of creating safe spaces for

immigrants and refugees who may be experiencing Domestic Violence on campus or in their lives at home.

Making One's home in Philadelphia as Sudanese, Muslim and American (University of Pennsylvania)

ladarola 117A

(Dr. Carol Ann Muller, Graduate Chair and Professor of Music, University of Pennsylvania)

This panel discussion will include leaders and young people from the Sudanese American community in Philadelphia, who have been working with Penn students around issues of Sudanese American identity, higher education, community building, Islamophobia, and performance in the last two years. Sudanese immigrants/refugees number between 3000 and 4000 in Philadelphia, and they have been coming to the city since the 1980s, pushed by a series of regional crises: Darfur, South Sudan, and the Sudanese civil war. We will have a frank conversation about the challenges and possibilities of collaborative research between Penn and Sudanese refugees, immigrants, and those who have won visas through the Diversity Lottery, represented in four ongoing visual/sound projects that speak to these experiences.

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Series II – 1:45-3:00 PM

Striving for Mutuality: Re-Imagining Community/University Service Learning Experiences

Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A

(Dr. Bethany Welch, Executive Director, Aquinas Center; Sabina Marroquin, Center for FaithJustice and Martina Hyacinth, Aquinas Center program participant)

As the global refugee crisis intensifies, more and more educational institutions are seeking meaningful ways to engage with the issue and the people affected. However, many of the models for engagement still rely on old patterns of volunteerism and service that situate the marginalized community as needy recipients of charity rather than co-determiners of a mutually beneficial relationship that challenges systemic injustice. In this session, Aquinas Center team members will describe how our diverse immigrant, refugee, and asylee community in South Philadelphia provides hands on learning opportunities that help young people and adults make sense of the push/pull factors of migration while re-thinking notions of partnership and collaboration. Participants will be invited to consider how they can re-work internships, service learning projects, and other community engagement approaches to embody respect, flexibility, initiative, and mutuality.

Southeast by Southeast: Building Behavioral Health through Arts, Coalitions, and Wellness

Iadarola Lecture Hall

(Melissa Fogg, Manager, Southeast by Southeast, Mural Arts Philadelphia)

One of the key summary recommendations of the recently published U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Investigation into Suicides among Bhutanese Refugees in the US 2009 – 2012 Stakeholders Report was to "strengthen community structures and expand programs for newly arrived persons that address post-resettlement isolation, non-clinical interventions in the context of Bhutanese culture, vocational training, and community engagement". The work of Southeast by Southeast represents a unique model for implementing this key recommendation across different refugee groups. Led by Mural Arts Philadelphia and based in a storefront community center in Southeast Philadelphia, the Southeast by Southeast program has evolved into an innovative and interdisciplinary initiative that is framing refugee mental health issues around concerns of wellness and addressing barriers to health through educational programs, therapeutic groups, and the cultural art forms of dancing, weaving, photography, writing, cooking, drama, and storytelling.

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Series II – 1:45-3:00 PM

Free Tax Return Preparation for Unauthorized Immigrants as a Gateway to Asset Building

ladarola 117A

(Will Gonzalez, Executive Director, Ceiba; Frederick Rivera, Assistant Vice President, Lending, FINANTA; and Lazlo Beh, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Philadelphia Legal Assistants)

There is often a disconnect between communities and the universities that lie within their borders. Fear and safety issues can result where differences are accentuated and similarities are underplayed. Trees can be the bridge that connects these disparate communities, providing the catalyst for them to collaborate, and like the symbiosis of lichens to leave them better together than either would be alone. Learn how the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders University Initiative has fostered these relationships through training -- followed by tree planting and tree care opportunities on campuses as well as in the surrounding communities. In this session we will outline the Tree Tenders program, give examples of successful collaborations with universities, outline ways that your school can participate and the resources PHS can provide. Weather permitting, we will go outside to see examples of what the Philadelphia University Tree Tenders have accomplished by partnering with the East Falls Tree Tenders group.

Undergraduate Showcase: Two mini-sessions: Undocumented

Immigrant Healthcare Access in Philadelphia and screening/discussion of *Taste of Home*, a student-made film

Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B

(Nicole Salfi, La Salle University and Dr. Carol Ann Muller, Graduate Chair and Professor of Music, University of Pennsylvania)

Part A: Healthcare access in America has expanded greatly within the last century. The creation of public health programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act have been keystones in providing to those who without it, would not have a means to obtaining adequate healthcare. Still, a whole population lacks formal access to healthcare in the United States. Undocumented immigrants face barriers that need to be overcome to attain quality healthcare access in Philadelphia that hurts not only them, but also their families and the entire city. This research will explore and outline the impediments that undocumented immigrants must overcome to receive healthcare in Philadelphia.

Part B: Dr. Carol Muller will present a film created by a group of Chinese American undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania. The film addresses parallel issues of home and longing for home amongst the Chinese community in Philadelphia, represented by the Chinese restaurant owner's story, as was found in the Sudanese American immigrant/refugee community in West Philadelphia.

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop Series III – 3:30-4:45 PM

The Global Nextdoor: Migration Studies at Haverford College

Grace Hall Multipurpose Room B

(Janice Lion, Associate Director, Center for Peace & Global Citizenship; Itzel Delgado, Haverford House Fellow at the PA Farmworker Project, Philadelphia Legal Assistance; and Elias Mohr, International Program Coordinator; Haverford College)

The Center for Peace and Global Citizenship at Haverford College offers a winter break migration studies program in partnership with organizations that support migrant rights. This program has included connection to courses, taken place at the US-Mexico border, and taken place in Mexico City. This year, the program begins with in Philadelphia, highlighting local organizations as part of learning about migration in both sending and receiving communities. Students will continue traveling and learning in Mexico City and Puebla, a primary sending community for Philadelphia's Latino population. Presenters will share lessons learned from this specific program model, offer some reflective comparisons to previous years, and share perceived opportunities for ongoing improvement. We will end with a conversation exploring opportunities for higher ed and migrant advocacy organizations to collaborate for greater impact together.

Teen Transition and Socialization into School and Community (Teens INC and other youth from South Philadelphia)

Grace Hall Multipurpose Room A

(Jason Huber, Executive Director, Teenagers Inc and additional teen participants)

Teens Inc is designed to create, build, strengthen and grow community for teenagers by teenagers. Teens are currently engaged in building Teens INC (Teens Immigrant Networking Community) which provides a meeting place for immigrant, refugee, and international teenagers to gather in a supportive community for social and emotional transition into Philadelphia high schools and middle schools. This is a workshop/session designed to engage the participants in an actual prototype session of Teens INC meet-up. This serves three functions: 1) practice the format of the meet-up, 2) generate ideas of possible topics and arc of meet-ups as they progress, and 3) reflect and immediately gain feedback on structure, design and marketing.

Adult Education and Employment: An Integrated Model (Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

Iadarola Lecture Hall

(Judith Johnson, Director of Programs and Miranda Berger, Employment Specialist, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

Workshop

Descriptions

Workshop Series III – 3:30-4:45 PM

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians offers full services in adult education and employment. Services include intake, orientation, assessment, case management, education and training, employment and job development workshops. Learn how all departments collaborate to deliver services to meet the needs of participants to achieve their career goals.





Biographies of Panelists

Oni Richards

African Family Health Organization

Oni Richards currently serves as the Executive Director of the African Family Health Organization (AFAHO) where she is responsible for developing, implementing and managing health and human service programs for the African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee community in the greater Philadelphia area as well as directing the administrative functions of the organization. She brings more than six years of public health program development and management experience to this position. Under her leadership, AFAHO has expanded its focus and diversified its programs and services to respond to community needs. Oni previously served as a consultant in the Africa Program of the American Friends Service Committee where she organized advocacy activities related to health, social and economic justice issues in Africa; with a particular focus on developing campaigns to impact congressional decisions on debt cancellation for African nations. She spent time in Durban, South Africa creating programs and conducting fundraising activities for an orphanage serving children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and is in the process of conducting a needs assessments related to healthcare needs in Liberia. Oni was selected as a Visionary Emerging Leader by the Valentine Foundation and awarded a scholarship to attend the Non-Profit Executive Leadership Institute at Bryn Mawr College where she further developed her non-profit management skills. She was also given the 2012 Echoes of Africa Community Service Award by the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs

and a Citation by the City Council of Philadelphia for her work and dedication to the communities she serves. In 2015, Oni received the Community Leadership Award from ACANA for her efforts in addressing the health needs of the African Diaspora.

Nina Ahmad

Public Engagement, City of Philadelphia

Nina Ahmad, Ph.D., is the Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement for the City of Philadelphia. She is the co-founder, and previously served as the Executive Vice President of Government Affairs, of JNA Capital, Inc., a real estate development and finance company based in Philadelphia. She has been appointed by President Obama to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and used to serve as the Chair of the Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs during the Nutter Administration. Nina is also the recent past president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Phila-NOW). Nina is a founding member of the Asian Mosaic Fund giving circle, and also sits on the Diversity Committee of William Penn Charter School. She is one of the founding members of Asian Pacific Americans for Progress, as well. Dr. Ahmad received her Doctoral degree in 1990 from the Chemistry Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and trained as a Postdoctoral Fellow with noted collagen expert, Darwin Prockop, M.D., Ph.D. at Thomas Jefferson University. She currently resides in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia with her

Biographies of Panelists (cont'd)

husband Ahsan Nasratullah and two daughters.

Maria Sotomayor **Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition**

Maria Sotomayor is PICC's Organizer and Civic Engagement Coordinator, leading PICC's youth organizing project and responsible for administering PICC's civic engagement work. She became involved with PICC in 2012 shortly after sharing her story at a PICC-organized event in Chester and joined the team in January 2013 after she was granted DACA. Maria was born in Ecuador and raised in Pennsylvania since she was 9 years old. Coming from a mixed-status family and community impacted by the current immigration system, Maria hopes to educate and support immigrant communities to use their voice and power to change the current immigration system. Maria graduated from Neumann University in May 2013 with a BA in Psychology and minor in Communications. She is the president of the board for La Puerta Abierta, a volunteer organization that provides mental health support and training to the Latinx immigrant community in Philadelphia and Delaware County. She was also awarded with the Youth Advocate honor award from HIAS Pennsylvania in 2015.

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock **National Skills Coalition**

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock is Director of Upskilling Policy. She leads NSC's work on adult education and workforce policies that support US-born and immigrant adults with foundational skills gaps.

In this role, she analyzes policies, makes recommendations, and coordinates with National Skills Coalition member organizations to address issues facing adult learners and jobseekers, including immigrant workers.

Amanda has authored numerous publications and policy recommendations on immigrant integration, workforce development, and adult education. She has extensive experience engaging state and federal policymakers. Amanda joined NSC in 2015.

Prior to joining NSC, Amanda was Vice President of Policy and Evaluation at the nonprofit Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians in Philadelphia. In that role, she led the Welcoming Center's policy and communications work on adult education, workforce and economic development issues. She also served as Policy and Communications Director for IM-PRINT, a national coalition of nonprofit organizations focusing on the integration of immigrant professionals.

Amanda holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied American Civilization with an emphasis on minority populations. She is based in Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

Biographies of Panelists (cont'd)

Patience Lehrman Temple University

Patience Lehrman is a recipient of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal from President Obama, the second-highest civilian award in the United States, second only to the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She joined the ranks of other former recipients like Muhammad Ali, General Colin Powell, Robert Gates, Bob Dole and many others. She is currently the Special Assistant to the Dean at the College of Education at Temple University, where she oversees the Intergenerational Center and works to provide strategic focus to the College's numerous community engagement projects and, to integrate the College's community into a network of social enterprises and community organizations. Prior to her current role, she served as the National Director of Project SHINE, an immigrant integration initiative headquartered at Temple University with partners in 16 communities across the country. Through Project SHINE, students and retired volunteers were trained to tutor immigrant and refugee seniors in English language, life-skills, health literacy and civic education to prepare them for life in America. Under her leadership, Mrs. Lehrman expanded Project SHINE and earned the prestigious national E Pluribus Unum Award from the Migration Policy Institute for exceptional immigrant integration.

In May 2011, Mrs. Lehrman was honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for her efforts in promoting immigrant integration – one of 4 recipients nationwide to receive the prestigious honor

in this category. That same year, she was selected as the U.S. representative to speak at a global conference in Hamburg, Germany about the benefits of promoting immigrant integration through multi-sector collaboration. In 2013, she was inducted into the Temple University Gallery of Success. In 2014, she was selected by former First Lady, Michelle Obama and the Reach Higher office to lead the Pennsylvania Consortium for College and Career Readiness.

A leader in community service, education, workforce development and immigrant integration, Mrs. Lehrman is also a first generation immigrant from Cameroon, West Africa. Over the past decade, Mrs. Lehrman has developed and led a wide-range of initiatives with local and national organizations serving youths, low-income families and immigrants/refugees. She is a strong advocate for affordable quality education, community engagement, and immigrant and refugee rights, and has testified before Philadelphia City Council and the Pennsylvania State Legislature against anti-immigration legislation. She is currently on the advisory board of several organizations that operate a number of programs in the community including, but not limited to: quality pre-K through 12 education, college access and success, community partnership building, intellectual disabilities and autism, and workforce development. Mrs. Lehrman holds three Master's degrees (MS. Ed '01, M. AOD '04, and Executive MBA '11) and is currently a doctoral student at Temple University.

Notes



