



ERIE is a research center of the
Black School of Business at Penn State Behrend

13th ERIE Conference:
The Impact of Immigration on the Local Economy
Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Samuel P. "Pat" Black III Conference Center
Jack Burke Research and Economic Development Center
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

8:00 – 8:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 – 8:35 **Welcome**

Dr. Greg Filbeck, Interim Director of the Black School of Business and Samuel P. Black III Professor of Finance and Risk Management, Penn State Behrend

8:35 – 8:45 **Introduction and Overview of the Conference**

Dr. Kenneth Louie, Director, ERIE, and Associate Professor of Economics, Black School of Business, Penn State Behrend

8:45 – 9:15 **The Erie Economy in 2016**

Dr. Kenneth Louie, Director, ERIE, and Associate Professor of Economics, Black School of Business, Penn State Behrend

Ken will present a summary of the most important recent trends in the Erie economy, the latest edition of the ERIE Index of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and a brief overview of some of the immigration issues and trends in Erie as they relate to the theme of today's conference.

9:15 – 9:45 **The Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC):**

Immigration Facts & Fallacies, Resources, Challenges, and Impact on the Community

Ms. Joanna Cherpak, Executive Director, MCRC

Mr. Paul Jericho, Associate Director – Programs, MCRC

Ms. Deborah Pazmino, Director of Language & Immigration Services, MCRC

Joanna, Paul, and Deborah will discuss some immigration facts and fallacies; provide an overview of the evolution of the MCRC over its 40-plus years of history, including the resources and services it provides; highlight some of the ongoing local challenges as well as successes with respect to immigration; and offer their views, based on their extensive professional experience, regarding the impact of immigration on our community.

9:45 – 10:00 **Immigrants in the Community: *The Business Perspective***

Mr. Eldin Fazlic, owner, Titanium Construction

Eldin, a successful immigrant business owner in Erie, will discuss some of the challenges as well as opportunities faced by immigrants in the local economy.

10:00 – 10:30 Immigrants in the Community: *The Local Government Perspective*
Mr. Gary Lee, Director of Administration, Office of the County Executive
Ms. Kim Green, Director of Economic & Community Development, City of Erie

Gary and Kim will share their insights, from the perspective of local government leaders, regarding immigration and its potential impact on the Erie region.

10:30 – 10:45 Networking Break (with refreshments)

10:45 – 11:15 Immigrants in the Community: *The Legal Perspective*
Ms. Alicia DiBacco, JD (law practice dedicated to U.S. immigration and nationality law)

Alicia has extensive experience as a practicing attorney whose immigration work focuses on employment-based petitions and some family-based immigration. She will discuss some of the issues regarding immigration in the community from a legal perspective.

11:15 – 12:15 Immigration: Impact on Labor Markets and Regional Economic Development
Dr. Pia Orrenius, Vice President and Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

*Dr. Orrenius is a nationally known and highly respected expert on the economics of immigration. She has served as Senior Economist on the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President, and is currently Vice President and Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Dr. Orrenius' academic research focuses on the labor market impacts of immigration, unauthorized immigration and U.S. immigration policy. She has written extensively on immigration issues and is co-author of the book *Beside the Golden Door: U.S. Immigration Reform in a New Era of Globalization*.*

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch

**1:30 – 2:00 U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), Erie Field Office:
*Impact of Immigration from the Perspective of Those Working in the Field***
Dylanna Jackson, Director, USCRI
Jeff Brooks, Community Outreach Case Manager, USCRI

Based on their experience and expertise from their work at the Erie Field Office, Dylanna and/or Jeff will discuss the role of USCRI with respect to immigration in the local community.

2:00 Wrap-Up and Adjournment

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