



The Role of Immigrants in Revitalizing the Economy of America's Cities

January 14, 2004, Philadelphia, PA - Can immigrants play a role in revitalizing the economy and the demographic mix in aging cities that are losing population, struggling to maintain economic growth and fighting rampant sprawl and abandonment? These issues were discussed against the backdrop of the demographics of recent population change and immigration in Philadelphia, Boston and comparable northeastern cities. Speakers addressed strategies for drawing educated and skilled immigrants to cities and integrating all immigrants, whether skilled or not, into the economy. Boston has established a city office to assist immigrants with considerable success. Philadelphia does not have a comparable initiative but is working to improve international trade and business and attract more international students.

Welcome:

Anne O'Callaghan, Executive Director, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

Speakers:

William H. Frey, Demographer, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan; Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution

"Political Realities of Immigration in Philadelphia"

The Honorable James F. Kenney, Philadelphia City Council

"Stimulating International Commerce"

Mjenzi Traylor, First Deputy Director of Commerce, Philadelphia

Moderator:

David B. Thornburgh, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Economy League, Southeastern Pennsylvania



Co-Sponsors:

The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

Pennsylvania Economy League

Downloads: (see Presentations web page)

Bill Frey's PowerPoint Presentation

Quick Facts:

"Despite significant population gains from immigration, California, Illinois, and New York have all experienced significant domestic out-migration."

*William H. Frey, Demographer, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan;
Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution*

"In addition to immigration, Arizona, North Carolina, Colorado and South Carolina all experience domestic in-migration in excess of three million people."

*William H. Frey, Demographer, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan;
Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution*

"Despite large gains in the number of hispanics in California, Illinois and New York through immigration, all three of these states experienced net out-migration of domestic hispanics."

*William H. Frey, Demographer, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan;
Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution*

"Southern-born whites now comprise less than half of the south's total population."

*William H. Frey, Demographer, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan;
Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution*

Materials:

Fact Sheet: The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

Fact Sheet: The Importance of Immigrants to Regional Economic Development and Urban Revitalization

Executive Summaries: (see Executive Summaries web page)

Immigration to the United States - Update (2002)

In Attendance:

270 Philadelphians from the business, policy, government, and non-profit communities