



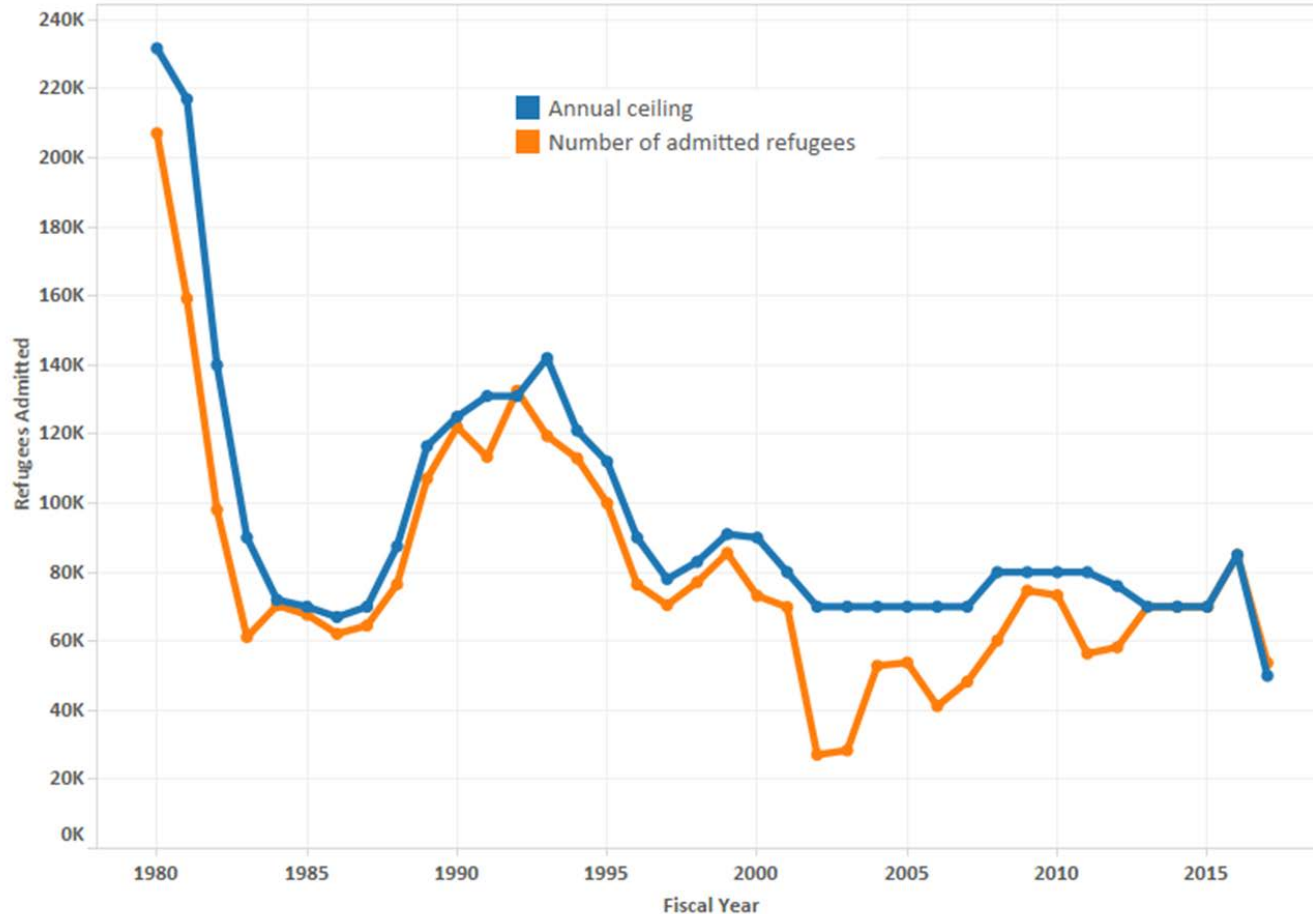
INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
SAINT LOUIS

Refugee Resettlement, Foreign-Born Talent, and Workforce Needs in St. Louis

Blake Hamilton
Vice President of Programs
International Institute of St. Louis

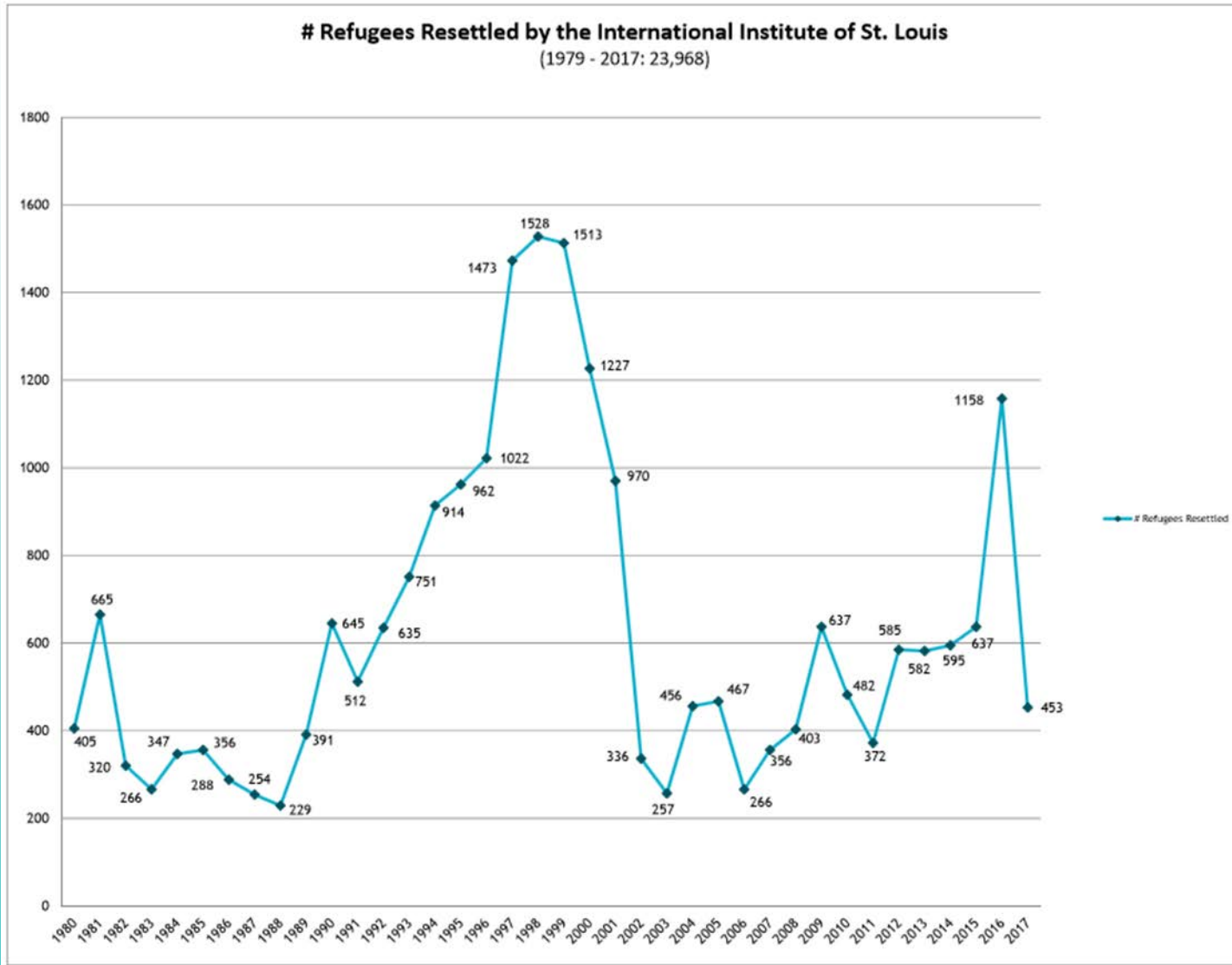
Refugee Resettlement in USA

U.S. Refugee Admissions and Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, Fiscal Years 1980-2017



Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub
<http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>

Refugee Resettlement in St. Louis



Refugee Resettlement in St. Louis

2016: 1,158

Syria, Somalia, Congo, Iraq

2017: 453

Afghanistan, Somalia, Congo, Iraq

2018: 188 as of 9/12/18

Afghanistan, Congo (125 arrivals)

What do foreign-born residents mean to St. Louis?

2000-2015

- STL MSA population grew 0.69%*
- STL MSA foreign-born population grew 55%

*Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016. United States Census Bureau.
Retrieved December 30, 2017.

Do skills match the workforce needs?

- 38% of foreign-born STL residents have a business, finance, art, science, or healthcare background
- 44% of foreign-born STL residents have a bachelors degree or better
- 36% of grad students in science and engineering programs are visa holders*
- 2012-2017, 18% of all refugees in STL have STEM background

* Caren A. Arbeit and Peter Einaudi and Kelly H. Kang, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, March 2016

Do skills match the workforce needs?

- 2014, >50% of companies had open STEM positions[^]
- 28% of employed immigrants are in STEM occupations
- 2.5 job openings per STEM graduate in 2016
- Through 2026, significant increase in STEM and healthcare job openings*
- ~4,000 local foreign-born workers have a degree and are either unemployed or underemployed

[^] 2015 State of the St. Louis Workforce Report, STLCC

*US Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov, Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, Labor Supply and Demand Report 2016

What does all of this mean?

There is increasing need for skilled STEM and healthcare workers in our region

Many highly educated foreign-born residents are not utilizing their education and experience

For the region to grow economically, we must effectively cultivate skilled workers

What is the region doing to address these issues?

- International Institute Center for Career Advancement (IICCA)
- St. Louis Mosaic Project
- Skilled Immigrant Integration Pilot (SIIP)
- Decoding the Potential (Oct. 19th)

What can the region do to capitalize on foreign-born talent?

- Public sector, private sector, education and workforce systems must collaborate to address skill needs for the future
- Welcoming and inclusive policies to utilize skills of foreign born

DECODING THE POTENTIAL

**Promoting Regional
Prosperity by
Engaging Skilled
Immigrants**

**October 19, 2018
8:00 am – 1:30 pm**

**International Institute of St. Louis
3401 Arsenal, St. Louis, MO 63118**

3401 Arsenal St.
St. Louis, MO 63118

(314) 773-9090

www.iistl.org

info@iistl.org



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

SAINT LOUIS



Proud member of



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

Immersion • Investment • Inclusion