Filling the Skills Gap:
How immigrant skills can meet area workforce needs

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Alignment of Foreign-Born Talent and Workforce Needs

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

2000-2015

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


Immersion • Investment • Inclusion
Do skills match the workforce needs?

- 38% of foreign-born STL residents have a business, finance, art, science, or healthcare background.

- 36% of grad students in science and engineering programs are visa holders*.

- 2012-2017, 18% of all refugees in STL have STEM background.

Do the skills match the workforce needs?

- 2014, >50% of companies had open STEM positions^

- 2.5 job openings per STEM graduate in 2016

- Through 2026, significant increase in STEM and healthcare job openings*

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

In order for STL to grow economically, we need skilled workers to fill open positions.
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)
What can the region do to capitalize on foreign-born talent?

- Local and state government, industry, education and workforce systems must collaborate to address skill needs

- Welcoming and inclusive policies to utilize skills of foreign born