



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Mayor Hogsett Announces Third Class of the International Leaders Academy**

*17 participants from 10 countries to take part in leadership program*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett, the Mayor’s Office of International and Latino Affairs (OILA) and the Immigrant Welcome Center announce the third class of the International Leaders Academy.

“The International Leaders Academy is about so much more than learning the ins and out of city-county government,” said Mayor Hogsett. “Each participant walks away with the understanding of how their voice and lived experience can impact Indianapolis.”

The International Leaders Academy is a free leadership program aimed at empowering and connecting with immigrant Hoosiers. It was established by OILA in partnership with the Immigrant Welcome Center. The mission of the program is to teach participants about the inner workings of local government.

“More than ever, the International Leaders Academy is relevant and needed. As our immigrant neighbors face myriad challenges that threaten their safety and well-being, ILA offers pathways and solutions to training the next cadre of immigrants who are prepared to participate in civic discourse and ensure representation of our needs and values within all levels of government,” said Gurinder Kaur, Chief Executive Officer of Immigrant Welcome Center. “Immigrant Welcome Center remains a steadfast partner of City of Indianapolis’ Office of International and Latino Affairs in hosting ILA.”

This year’s moderators are Ruth Morales (OILA Director) and Christina Arrom Garza (Immigrant Welcome Center). The class of 17 participants is highly diverse, illustrating the multitude of heritages that call Indianapolis home. 10 nationalities and 11 languages are represented in this class.

This year’s participants are:

Maria De La Paz Cazares-Balderas

Elias Chavez

Diego Stephano Ibarra Shishido

Safi Muloway

Diana Paola Cubides Matallana

Nana Kashama

Julieth Daniela Castellanos Herrera

Wycliff Ayonga

Diana Matzinger

Jocelyn Euceda

Lalzaman Mohmand

Alejandra Canales Flores

Haddy Rikabi

Raquel Rafaela Ciprian Diaz

Yvette Vargas

Ivonne Hernández

Ana Tovar

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About the Mayor's Office of International and Latino Affairs: The Mayor's Office of International and Latino Affairs (OILA) works to engage, support, and invest in Indianapolis' minoritized populations. The office is responsible for developing and managing all International and Latino outreach efforts. Additionally, OILA works with local community groups to identify and resolve issues facing the International and Latino community. For more information, visit <https://www.indy.gov/activity/office-of-international-and-latino-affairs>.

