

# 2016 New American Forum

Franklin University, Ross Auditorium, 301 E. Rich St. Columbus  
May 12, 2016  
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



## Event Agenda

9:30AM **Registration and Breakfast**

10:00AM **Opening Remarks**

- John O'Grady, President, Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Kevin Boyce, State Representative, 25<sup>th</sup> House District
- Andrea Magaña Lewis, Public Policy Officer, Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

10:20AM **Conversation with Columbus Leadership**

*"Columbus is a Success Story for Welcoming and Integration"*

- Kevin Boyce, State Representative, 25<sup>th</sup> House District
- Liz Brown, Councilmember, Columbus City Council
- Derek Anderson, Executive Director, Community Relations Commission
- Steve Frances, Executive Director, Diversity and

## Inclusion, City of Columbus

Moderator: Guadalupe Velasquez, Assistant Director, CRC,  
City of Columbus

10:50AM **Remarks from President Zach Klein, Columbus  
City Council**

10:53AM **Keynote Speech – Felicia Escobar, Special  
Assistant to the President for Immigration Policy, White House  
Task Force on New Americans**

11:10AM **Break**

11:20AM **Improving the Economic Standing of New  
Americans in Central Ohio**

*Panel I – Promoting Immigrant Employment & Workforce  
Development*

Moderator: Tariq Mohamed, Business & Employment Services  
Coordinator, Jewish Family Services

*Panel II – Leveraging the Entrepreneurial Spirit of the  
Immigrant Community*

Moderator: Natasha Pongonis, Co-Owner, Nativa Multicultural  
Communications

12:05PM **Break**

12:15PM **Lunch**

1:00PM **Remarks from Adhanet Kifle, Board Member,  
Community Relations Commission**

1:05PM **Understanding the Impact of New Americans in  
Central Ohio**

- Tariq Tarey, Visual Ethnographer, Somali Documentary Project
- Angie Plummer, Executive Director, Community Refugee and Immigration Services
- Kay Lipovsky, Director, World Relief Columbus
- Abdi Soofe, New American Initiative Outreach Coordinator, City of Columbus

1:50PM **Break**

2:00PM **Salient Issues Impacting the New American Community**

Interactive Small Group Discussions on:

- *Housing and Civil Rights* – featuring the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Homes on the Hill, City of Columbus
- *Human Trafficking and VAWA Benefits* – featuring Asian American Community Services, Community Refugee and Immigration Services, Dept. of Homeland Security
- *Health* – featuring Columbus Public Health, ADAMH
- *Language Access in Education and the Justice System* – featuring Columbus City Schools, Ohio Supreme Court

3:00PM **Overview of Action Items**

3:25PM **Closing Remarks**

3:30PM **Networking Reception**

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