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## National Immigrant Integration Conference: Recommitting Our Country To One Of Welcome

**NATIONWIDE** - The annual [National Immigrant Integration Conference \(NIIC\) 2021](#), the largest conference focused on immigrant and refugee issues in the country, will take place October 3-6 in Las Vegas.

Hosted by the [National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#), [NIIC 2021 – New American Dreams](#) originally launched in 2008 and is a testament to NPNA’s commitment to ensuring an inclusive and welcoming democracy that helps to integrate all refugees and immigrants while recognizing the vital impact they have on our country.

“As the nation marks Immigrant Heritage Month, it is critical that we support immigrants in their journey to fully integrate into civic life in the U.S. Immigrants are a core part of our society and economy,” said **Laura Martin, executive director of Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada**, one of the regional partners for the conference. “Immigrants are more than just ‘essential workers:’ they are our neighbors, family and friends.”

“Successful integration is a crucial factor in ensuring immigrants feel welcomed into their new country and do not face barriers to participate fully in their new communities,” added **Angelica Salas, executive director of CHIRLA and co-chair of NPNA**. “This includes providing help learning the language and culture, finding gainful employment and a place to live, and as they qualify, ensure an accessible way to engage in the citizenship process. All of these issues and the policies that guide them will be front and center at NIIC.”

This year's NIIC will be the first in-person NIIC since Covid hit. "This last period in our country -- through the prior administration and then the pandemic -- has been so difficult. The opportunity to mourn our losses, uplift important progress and innovations, and strategize together is so important," added **Martin**. Each year, NIIC brings together over 1,000 policymakers and advocates from across the United States and many international partners. The conference provides a key avenue for leaders across the sector serving immigrants and refugees to connect and share ideas, information, and strategies particularly on integration issues including economic, employment and healthcare access and civic engagement.

"America is a country of immigrants, and it has never been more important to bring together changemakers to create real change. Our immigration systems are outdated and ineffective, and we have turned our back on our legacy of welcome. Now is the time to recommit to the words prescribed by Lady Liberty; we must work together to embrace the huddled masses yearning to breathe free," said **Nicole Melaku**, *executive director of the National Partnership for New Americans*.

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