

# *Examples of Successful Welcoming Efforts*

## **Businesses and Economic Development**

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### **Economic Development Plans Integrate Welcoming Strategies**

The economic development teams in St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis partnered to form the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. In 2012 the Partnership launched the St. Louis Mosaic Project which aims to:

- Engage business leaders to hire more international talent.
- Connect immigrant entrepreneurs to resources to start and grow their small businesses.
- Attract and support international students for earlier and deeper integration into the St. Louis community.
- Collaborate with area colleges and universities to educate international students as they plan for life in St. Louis after graduation.
- Engage local and federal government leaders to reduce barriers for foreign workers and their families.
- Dispel myths about immigration and reinforce a community culture of inclusion and welcoming.
- Recruit residents to promote the Mosaic Project.

### **Business Coalitions Promote Welcoming as Part of Strong Economic Development**

The “**Georgia Prospers**” initiative was launched in January, 2016 to “support an environment free of discrimination for our customers, employees, and visitors alike. Members of Georgia Prospers join together to speak with a united voice about the necessity to promote our state’s proven brand as a welcoming and prosperous place to do business.” Over 600 companies have signed the Georgia Prospers business pledge. [www.GeorgiaProspers.org](http://www.GeorgiaProspers.org).

Modeled after Georgia Prospers, “**Tennessee Thrives**” started in December 2016 and has over 300 members. “In order for Tennessee businesses to compete for top talent, we believe our workplaces and communities must be diverse and welcoming for all people, regardless of race, sex, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.” [www.TennesseeThrives.org](http://www.TennesseeThrives.org)

### **Private Sector Partnerships with Immigrant Advocacy Organizations**

Tutta Bella Restaurant was one of several private sector partners that provided space and computers for OneAmerica’s highly successful *English Innovations*® classes so their employees and others in the community could learn English and improve their computer skills.