

Speakers

Patrick Owens is a Senior Business Banking Specialist with Wells Fargo Bank. His role is to educate business owners in a “Big Picture” thought process that gets them to think about not only there here and now, but what their business will look like tomorrow. By taking the time to learn what’s important to his clients, he has been able to help them succeed financially and grow the small business segment in the Des Moines Metro. He is a member of the Business Network International group, and believes that when you find an expert in a field of business, the best compliment that you can give that person is a referral. He is married to wife Shantelle, and has 2 children, Peyton and Emmet, that always keep him active and busy. He likes movies, comics, and long walks on the beach.



Adam Steen is the owner of 25Connections. His firm specializes as an outsourced business development manager, opening doors for high growth potential companies who have not yet developed sustainable internal sales functions. His consulting work across the State of Iowa, for the last 9 years, has accelerated the growth of hundreds of businesses in a wide range of industries.



Monica Parra assists clients with any accounting and taxation needs at the Des Moines office. She especially works closely with the Spanish speaking clients. She received her degree in Accounting and Finance from Marco Fidel Suarez University (Medellin- Colombia) in 2010. She is from Colombia and is fluent in Spanish. Her smile and sweet nature is contagious and will reassure you are in good hands.

Katie Stull was appointed Chief Human Resources Officer at DART in December 2016. She oversees the human resources department for all of DART’s nearly 300 full and part-time employees. Stull began her professional career working as a Human Resources Specialist, then as a Human Resources Generalist for UTC Aerospace Systems in West Des Moines, Iowa. She became HR Manager for Hydro-Klean, LLC in Des Moines in 2013. Prior to joining DART, Stull worked for Willis Auto Campus as HR Manager. She received her bachelor’s degree in communications and a Master of Business Administration degree from Drake University in Des Moines.



She was elected the president elect of the Central Iowa Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, CISHRM in January 2016 and becomes president in January, 2017. Stull is a Society for Human Resource Management – Certified Professional and has a Professional in Human Resources Certification. Outside of her professional involvement, she is also involved in the Ronald McDonald House of Central Iowa, is a wish granter for Make-A-Wish Iowa, and volunteers her time as a mentor for students at Drake University.

Carlos Rios is the President and Lead Executive Director of the Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa (non-profit organization). Originally from Perú, Carlos received an undergraduate degree in political science (1986) and Juris Doctor Law degree (1989). Before coming to Iowa, he worked for ten years with United Nations peace-keeping operations in Africa and peace-building in Central America. In 2006 he was featured by Point Blank Newspaper as “People Making a Difference” creating a better Central Iowa. In 2010, he was awarded the Community Leadership Award from the State of Iowa. In 2011 with the Immigrant Spirit Award. And in 2017 with the Iowa Community Leadership Award from Chinese Association of Iowa.



Samantha Wagner is a Staff Attorney at Iowa Legal Aid, where she provides legal services and representation to low-income entrepreneurs in both litigation and transactional matters. She previously worked at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid representing survivors of sexual violence. Samantha graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, and received her Bachelor of Arts from Drake University. She is admitted to practice law in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Texas. Samantha has extensive experience working with immigrants and works to provide culturally-competent and creative solutions to clients’ legal issues. In her free time, she works to destigmatize mental health, especially for the legal profession, and serves as a cultural ambassador for the Midwest.



Daniel Rios was Business Manager and Key Accountant Manager of Bristol Myers Squibb and Merck & Co Peru. Originally from Peru. Graduate in Accounting and Financial Science (1990) and Specialized in Marketing and Sales. Before He was working in Education and Social Development.

Ying Sa is the founder of Community CPA and one of the initiators of this wonderful event of Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit. Ying has the deep knowledge of tax and accounting and her tax planning strategies are the life line of multi- million dollar companies located all over the country and in five different countries. Ying gives her knowledge to everyone who is willing to learn. Community CPA is one of the fastest growing professional firm in Iowa.



As a marketing professional, **Leng Vong** provides branding, social media, public relations, SEO, and market research services to a host of various clients. Leng started Akili Design in September of 2007 with a focus to serve small businesses. She is skilled in search engine optimization and online marketing as well as establishing vendor relationships that ultimately serve her clients’ goals and creates seamless and smooth project coordination.



Koda Snyder is New Business Development Consultant for SumTotal/Skillsoft a global leader in corporate learning, delivering beautiful technology and engaging content that drives business impact for modern enterprises. Koda has been an active member of the planning committee of the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit since 2009. Since college, Koda has a diverse background with experience in several industries ranging from finance to retail. Finally resulting in Sales, Koda has a background in leading a sales team, outside sales, account management, leading demonstrations, and inside sales. Koda enjoys engaging colleagues and peers by collaborating new ideas and being able to come up with common objectives to advance professional development.



Mike Wagner is President of White Rabbit, a business consultancy he founded in 2004. He is a skilled communicator, facilitator, and business consultant. Mike serves leadership teams in the creation of competitive advantage and growth strategies. His approach is a unique combination of leadership development and organizational culture, informed by the tools and process of “design thinking”.

Mike has been speaking professionally for over 30 years. He started his career as a Pastor and Church Planter before entering the business world. Mike engages audiences with fresh ideas and tells compelling stories to inspire them to keep creating! Mike’s mission is to release the wisdom and capacity of each organization he serves.