

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Passport to Prosperity



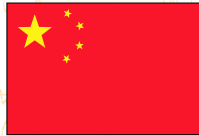
A Celebration of Iowa's Immigrants and Refugees

Tonight we honor:

Suku Radia– Uganda



Ying Sa– China and Canada



Yogesh Shah, M.D.– India



Sol Varisco-Santini– Argentina





Ying Sa

Displayed in Ying Sa's office is a world map covering one whole wall. It reflects both Ying's personal global perspective and the backgrounds of the over 1,300 clients who do business with her firm, Community CPA and Associates.

Ying is a repeat immigrant who first moved to Canada from China in the 1980s and then relocated to the U.S. in the 1990s.

She was born to a Mongolian-Chinese family, and her father was a professor of linguistics. While in Canada, she worked to pay her way through university and advanced her professional career from an accounting clerk to a corporate controller. In the U.S. she was Chief Financial Officer for the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership at Iowa State University and Vice President of Controllers at Wells Fargo Financial. Ying's decision to establish her own CPA firm stems from her desire to work one-on-one with her clients and feel their relief when their issues are solved and businesses are successful.

What motivates Ying is giving back. She established the Community Tax Clinic with the mission to help the disadvantaged with tax issues. She volunteers with the Ankeny Community School Culture Diversity Task Force, and she is the primary organizer of Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES) – an annual event aimed at establishing a platform and vehicle for immigrant entrepreneurs to network with the general public and integrate into the melting pot. The 2008 IES brought together over 300 attendees from 35 countries.

Many of Ying's immigrant clients are entrepreneurs that create jobs, pay taxes, and contribute to the economic prosperity in Iowa. For example, the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit has helped to establish 86 new businesses in Iowa. She knows it is important for our economic and technological development to keep graduates from U.S. universities here.

"Iowa, like the rest of the country, cannot avoid diversity," Ying says. "Iowa is a state that has vision; the people have a generous heart and they come through to help you."

Ying is married to Steve Hou, a professor of Mathematics at Iowa State University and together they are the proud parents of three children.

Presenter: Pete McRoberts, ICIU Board of Directors and Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Governor Chet Culver and Lt. Governor Patty Judge.