
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 18, 2006

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SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ TO HOST 9TH ANNUAL "IMMIGRANT DAY" AT CAPITOL

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz will join with DemocracyWorks and the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC) in hosting the 9th annual "Immigrant Day" at the State Capitol today, a day to honor immigrants from throughout Connecticut who have made strong contributions to their communities and/or professions.

Secretary Bysiewicz will join in honoring 22 immigrants from 18 different countries today – **Tuesday, April 18, 2006** – in the Old Judiciary Room on the 3rd Floor of the State Capitol at 1 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Amii Omara-Otunnu, a resident of Mansfield and native of Uganda who is currently the Chairman in Competitive Rights at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

The honorees will also include two high school students and two college students. **(A FULL LIST OF THE HONOREES IS ON PAGE TWO OF THIS RELEASE)**

"A strong democracy is based upon inclusion and participation of people from diverse backgrounds who bring with them unique talents and perspectives," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "It is incumbent upon us, particularly those of us in government, to recognize the value of diversity and encourage people with varied backgrounds to get involved in their communities."

"Immigrant Day has become a celebration of our diversity, and a recognition of the tremendous contributions of immigrants all around the world to our society and culture," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "As someone who is the granddaughter of immigrants from Poland and Greece, I am always proud to share this day with the honorees."

"This is a wonderful opportunity to remember the contributions that immigrants have made to Connecticut," Joyce Hamilton Henry, executive director of DemocracyWorks, said. "We are very pleased to join in showing our appreciation."

<u>HONOREE</u>	<u>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</u>	<u>CT RESIDENCE</u>
<u>Keynote Speaker and Honoree</u>		
Dr. Amii Omara-Otunnu	Uganda	Mansfield
<u>College Student Honorees</u>		
Kenya Carnegie	Jamaica	Waterbury
Morliana Evans	St. Lucia	Hartford
<u>High School Student Honorees</u>		
Dhimitrulla Kollchaku	Albania	Waterbury
Ernest Sliwinski	Poland	Meriden
<u>Honorees</u>		
Dr. M. Saud Anwar	Pakistan	South Windsor
Dr. Santanu Das	India	Shelton
Dr. Hema DeSilva	Sri Lanka	Avon
Helen Elperina	Russia	Old Saybrook
Katia Ferreira	Brazil	Danbury
Joseph Gouveia	Portugal	Wallingford
Dr. Alexander Isgut	Argentina	Newtown
Merva Jackson	Jamaica	Hartford
Patrick Kwanashie	Nigeria	Hartford
Wyns Lee	Vietnam	Manchester
Roman Luftglas	Poland	West Hartford
Elliette Matos	Dominican Republic	Bethel
Dr. Daniel Mulcahy	Ireland	West Hartford
Dr. Dimitrios Pachis	Greece	Mansfield
Emma Romanova	Russia	Fairfield
Blanca Santana	Columbia	Durham
Dr. Alexander Schenker	Poland	Hamden