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🏠 *Building a Nation of Neighbors*  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Upwardly Global Partners with Welcoming America: Increasing Immigrant Integration in the Workplace**

CHICAGO, January 2012 – Have you ever seen new coworkers struggling to fit in to your company culture? Or have you seen your company lose foreign-born employees in short periods of time because of miscommunication due to cultural issues? Wondering what you can do to help your company retain these new employees?

There are many ways you can make newcomers feel more welcome in the workplace. Upwardly Global and Welcoming America have joined forces to help employers create welcoming environments through tools that help immigrant and native born members of the workforce learn about each other and interact more positively.

Upwardly Global, a national non-profit organization with offices in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago, provides work-authorized, skilled immigrants with the job search tools they need to succeed in the U.S. while simultaneously creating relationships with employers seeking access to global talent. Welcoming America is a collaborative to build a welcoming atmosphere for newcomers in communities and workplaces. Together, these organizations are promoting immigrant integration in workplaces and communities across the country.

Welcoming America recently introduced a new program called Friends of Welcoming – an interactive web community of ideas and tools to help you put out the welcome mat to newcomers in your workplace. As you take action through the site, you are rewarded with points that can earn prizes and recognition. For individuals who have often felt that singular action has limited impact, Friends of Welcoming offers a grassroots method of promoting immigrant integration. By signing up online at [www.friendsofwelcoming.org](http://www.friendsofwelcoming.org), individuals, companies, and even cities can take action collectively and receive support for acting as a “Nation of Neighbors”.

Upwardly Global and Welcoming America created a section of Friends of Welcoming with tools specifically designed for workforce professionals to build understanding and collaboration in a diverse workplace. The site also features activities that can be a resource for companies to share with employees interested in doing more to engage with immigrants in their community. For those looking for ideas, the site also provides you with projects and initiatives that can help you be more inclusive and

welcoming to newcomers in your workplace. Friends of Welcoming is an interactive way to make a difference in your workplace and connect with others who are doing the same across the nation.

Upwardly Global and Welcoming America invite you to take action. Visit the Friends of Welcoming site to learn more about how you can make a difference in your workplace—no matter where you work!

### **About Upwardly Global**

A national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Upwardly Global has placed over 1,000 individuals in professional positions, resulting in a more globally competitive workforce and stronger local economies. Upwardly Global has won multiple awards for its innovative and effective two-way model for skilled immigrant workforce integration. The organization has a leading role to play in informing policy and practice on this population; they were recently tapped by the White House Domestic Policy Council to provide insight into the workforce integration of high-skilled, internationally-trained new Americans. For more information about Upwardly Global, visit [www.upwardlyglobal.org](http://www.upwardlyglobal.org).

### **About Welcoming America**

Welcoming America is a national, grassroots-driven collaborative that works to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. The ultimate goal of Welcoming America is to create a welcoming atmosphere – community by community – in which immigrants are more likely to integrate into the social fabric of their adopted hometown. To learn more, visit [www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org).

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