

PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CT SPONSORS NATURALIZATION CERMONY AT UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT: *College campus transformed into immigration court for the day, welcoming more than 200 new Americans*



Bridgeport, CT September 26, 2011- More than two hundred new Americans were sworn in as naturalized citizens on **Friday, September 23, 2011 at 3pm** at the annual naturalization ceremony, which was co-hosted by **International Institute of Connecticut and the USCIS (formerly INS)**.

The ceremony began with the official opening of the court and took place on the campus of University of Bridgeport. Also featured were keynote speakers, Neil Albert Salonen, President of the University of Bridgeport and Deputy Secretary of James Spallone., as well as Hartford USCIS Field Office Director Leah Van Wilgen.

The Honorable Judge Holly Fitzsimmons presided over the court proceedings. In addition, there was a presentation of colors by the VFW Color Guard and a musical performance by the campus choir.



The International Institute of Connecticut is a statewide non-profit agency dedicated to the needs of immigrants, refugees, and their families. The International Institute of Connecticut has co-sponsored this ceremony for more than thirty-five years and assists just approximately five hundred low income individuals applying for their U.S. citizenship annually.

Statutorily, an individual is eligible to apply for U.S naturalization after five years as a permanent resident in good moral standing and after demonstrating proficient English language skills and a general knowledge of U.S. civics. Other eligibility requirements apply.



The International Institute of Connecticut (IIC) Inc. has four permanent offices located in Bridgeport, Stamford, Derby and Hartford, and also maintains outreach operations throughout the state of Connecticut. The IIC supports and assists clients through the provision of material needs, direct professional services, counseling, advocacy, and the advancement of fair and humane public policy. The International Institute of Connecticut is dedicated to promoting full civic participation in our culturally diverse communities.

The event was sponsored in part by a generous donation from the United Illuminated Community Giving Program, The Valley Foundation, and from Purdue Pharma, a privately held pharmaceutical company in Stamford, CT founded by physicians, focused on meeting the needs of healthcare providers and the patients in their care.

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