

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Executive Ilene Shapiro Highlights Summit County as a “Welcoming” Community at the Ohio Immigrant Family Experience Seminar

Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro joined Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan earlier this week at the Families and Communities Interdisciplinary Seminar- the Ohio Immigrant Family Experience, to discuss initiatives aimed at welcoming and supporting immigrants and foreign born residents throughout Akron and Summit County.

In 2015, Summit County, along with the City of Akron declared their respective communities as “Welcoming”. In joining the Welcoming America Network, governments work together with businesses, non-profit organizations and others to focus on supporting newcomers, immigrants, and foreign born individuals to the community and assist with long term integration. Goals include building common ground between native and newly established foreign residents while focusing on positivity, sustainable policies, socio-economic strengths as well as social and health services, education and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), government services, public safety, transportation, youth services, and workforce/economic development.

“In order to honor our national identity as the land of opportunity, it is also socially and economically beneficial to welcome the international community to Summit County,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “Immigrants and foreign born residents have increased the housing value, added significant spending power to local and state taxes, and have brought business, ideas, and

jobs to our County while enriching our culture. The United States is a nation of immigrants- it is our history and our identity and we are working to preserve that here in Summit County.”

The full-day seminar, sponsored by the Akron Bar Association, UA School of Law, and UA Center of Family Studies, with support from The International Institute of Akron, also featured discussions pertaining to immigration information, parenting for immigrant families, justice for immigrants, custody and guardianship, national perspectives and local solutions, and the global experience.

For more information: <http://iiakron.org/>

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