



**INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE**
SAINT LOUIS

Press Release

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Anna Crosslin is White House World Refugee Day “Champion of Change”

On June 25, 2015, Anna Crosslin, President & CEO of the International Institute of St. Louis, will travel to the White House in Washington DC to be recognized as a World Refugee Day “Champion of Change” (www.whitehouse.gov/champions). She will join nine other recipients from throughout the US who provide protection and assistance to refugees abroad and ensure a warm reception for them here in the United States.

For 37 years Crosslin has lead the International Institute of St. Louis. The Institute is St. Louis’ Welcome Center, serving 7,500 immigrants and refugees annually from 80 countries. It provides a wide variety of adjustment services to immigrants and refugees including English classes, job placement, training, counseling and dozens of other integrative services.

In 2012 she helped found the St. Louis Mosaic Project, our region’s immigrant welcoming initiative. Mosaic is a nationally recognized multi-sector led immigration attraction initiative affiliated with Welcoming America. The initiative aims to make St. Louis the “...fastest growing major metro for immigrants by 2020.” Betsy Cohen, Mosaic’s Executive Director and Crosslin’s nominator, will attend the ceremony and panel discussion with Crosslin.

The program will feature remarks by National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council Cecilia Muñoz. United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power is also scheduled to participate.

“As a Japanese-American, I am aware of the challenges that language and culture present to refugee newcomers,” said Crosslin. “Born in Tokyo and raised in Seattle WA, I grew up with a foot in two cultures, in two worlds.”

The event will be live streamed on the White House website. To watch this event live, visit www.whitehouse.gov/live on June 25th at 1:40 PM ET. To learn more about the White House Champions of Change program, visit www.whitehouse.gov/champions. Follow the conversation at #WHChamps.

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The International Institute of St. Louis offers a variety services for 7,000 new Americans from 75 countries each year. We help immigrants and their families become productive Americans and champion ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength. With the help of the Institute, many newcomers can achieve independence and make valuable contributions to the St. Louis community.

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