



New Americans in the Cornhusker State

Joined by congregations from many faith perspectives, OTOC shares a common appreciation for immigrant families and immigrant contributions in our Omaha community. We stand against state level anti-immigrant laws that divide families and do not respect the dignity of all people. We stand together today for Comprehensive Federal Immigration Reform which would include the DREAM Act.

"I was a stranger and you made me welcome" --Matthew 25. "You know what it is like to be a foreigner" Exodus 23. The Hebrew Bible tells us: "The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt --Leviticus 19:33-34." The Qur'an tells us that we should "serve God...and do good to...orphans, those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet, [and those who have nothing] (4:36)."

Nebraska Families divided by detention and deportation

Most people in the Omaha area are unaware that undocumented immigrants are being held in detention centers and county jails throughout the country.

- In Omaha, there are approximately **140 immigrants held in the Douglas County Correctional facility** at any time. **75% have broken no other law** except acquiring false documents which make it possible for them to work and to pay taxes. For this act, however, they are charged with Federal felonies and imprisoned.
- It **costs at least \$90 per day per person** to detain an immigrant in Douglas County. --Douglas County Corrections
- The recent Executive Order has asked the Department of Homeland Security to reevaluate their current deportation cases. With limited resources, they have asked DHS to refocus on the detention and deportation of high risk criminals instead of community members who have been charged with no other crimes. This **prosecutorial discretion** has not been seen widely in Omaha to date.

Undocumented Youth in Our Community Struggling to Meet their Potential:

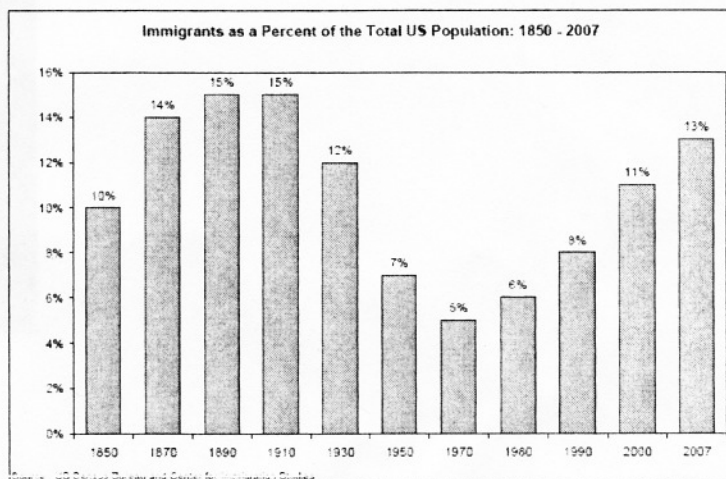
There are an estimated 1.8 million undocumented children under the age of 18 living in the United States. **65,000 undocumented students graduate each year from high school** in the United States, **but only 7,000 – 13,000 undocumented students are enrolled in college** throughout the United States. Pew Hispanic Center and the Urban Institute

The Federal DREAM Act would allow more undocumented youth the opportunity to obtain citizenship through participation in military service or higher education and:

- give beneficiaries access to greater educational opportunities and better jobs, which in turn means more taxable income
- allow legalized immigrants to invest in the U.S. economy
- keep talented students in the United States <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/dream-act#economic>

Nebraska Need for Community Members & Workers: Employee shortage is being predicted as soon as 2018

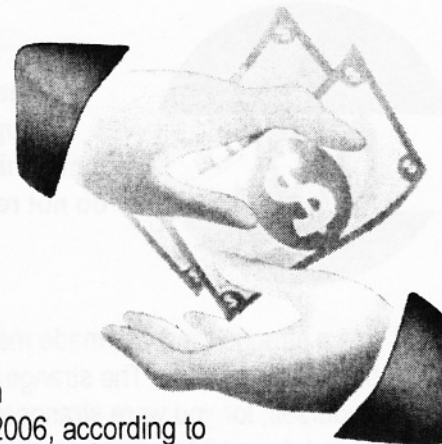
- NE population growth in last 10 years has been 5%
- Although birth rate exceeds death rate, **NE has a larger out-migration** of people and has struggled to maintain or grow our population.
- The percentage of foreign born Nebraskans in **2008 was 5.5%**. This is much lower than the national percentage in 2008 (13%) and **much lower than the 1900s (15%)**. (see chart at right)
- The percentage of the Nebraska's population that is Latino is 9.2% in 2010 (compared to 16% nationally)
U.S. Census Bureau



Economic Contributions of Immigrants in Nebraska

Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to Nebraska's economy.

- The 2009 purchasing power of Latinos in Nebraska totaled **\$2.9 billion**—an increase of 753.8% since 1990. according to the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia <http://www.terry.uga.edu/selig/> "The Multicultural Economy in 2009"



Immigrants make vital economic contributions to Nebraska's state and local economy:

- Immigrant spending accounted for **\$1.6 billion worth of total production in Nebraska's economy** and generated roughly **12,000 jobs for the state** in 2006, according to a study at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.
- Immigrant spending made a large impact on the state's local economies in 2006, including: \$1.14 billion in production and 8,331 jobs in Omaha and Lincoln.
- Nebraska's immigrants **contributed roughly \$154 million in property, income, sales, and gas tax revenue** in 2006, according to the same study. Decker, Christopher with Jerry Deichert and Lourdes Gouveia. 2008. "Nebraska's Immigrant Population. Economic and Fiscal Impacts". OLLAS Special Report No. 5. Omaha, NE: Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS), University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Immigrants are integral to Nebraska's economy as workers.

- Immigrants comprised **6.8% of the state's workforce** in 2008 (or 68,142 workers), according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised **2.8% of the state's workforce** in 2008, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.
- Immigrants are nearly 30% more likely to start a business than are non-immigrants, and they represent 16.7 percent of all new business owners in the United States <http://www.sba.gov> "Estimating the Contribution of Immigrant Business Owners to the U.S. Economy"
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Nebraska, **the state would lose \$852.4 million in economic activity, \$378.6 million in gross state product, and approximately 5,400 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the Perryman Group. <http://americansforimmigrationreform.com> "Impact of the Undocumented Workforce"
- Estimated cost of deporting all Nebraskan unauthorized immigrants \$500 million

Immigrant Nebraskans pay more in taxes than they receive in services.

- Immigrant Nebraskans – including undocumented – pay in **7% more in taxes than they receive in services**. The U.S. born population in Nebraska pays in taxes approximately the same amount as it receives in services (the contributions to costs ratio is 1 to 1). (Nebraska's Immigrant Population: Economic and Fiscal Impacts, University of Nebraska – Omaha 2008)

