



english for **NEW
BOSTONIANS**

english works

Shared Investment,
Mutual Opportunity

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2015

CONTACT:

Claudia Green

617-982-6861

cgreen@englishfornewbostonians.org



John Pepper, Chairman and CEO at Boloco (back row, second from the left), and his team, posing with their award. Also in the picture, Beth Butterfoss (front row, second from the left), Director of Business Services at JVS, the ESOL provider

Businesses Honored for Supporting ESOL in the Workplace

BOSTON, MA – English for New Bostonians (ENB) and its English Works Campaign held the "Raising Our Voices: Recognizing ESOL Leadership in Business and the Community" breakfast to honor seven businesses and labor/management partnerships that have joined with government and non-profit agencies to offer their immigrant workers the chance to learn English at work. Roger Berkowitz, President and CEO of Legal Sea Foods; and Ronald Marlow, Undersecretary for Workforce Development at Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development joined ENB for the event at Northeastern University. Over 200 state officials; business, labor and community leaders; and ESOL students attended.

ENGLISH FOR NEW BOSTONIANS 105 CHAUNCY STREET 7TH FLOOR BOSTON, MA 02111
www.englishfornewbostonians.org (617)982-6860

"I am proud of the fact that Legal Sea Foods is engaged in and committed to providing high-quality ESOL training for our employees," said Berkowitz. "We do this not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the smart, strategic thing to do as a forward-thinking corporation, operating in today's business environment. To remain competitive, businesses need to partner with a provider and wholeheartedly invest in English language programs to tap the talents and skills of its employees. At Legal Sea Foods, we've seen the successes time and time again."

ENB also welcomed its first English for Entrepreneurs class. Through this new citywide initiative, immigrant small business owners and their employees in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, and Chelsea will improve their English language skills with a focus on marketing, financing, customer service, and other elements key to running a successful business in the U.S.

"When a company combines job training with ESOL services it is making an investment in employees that is a proven path to increased productivity and worker retention," Labor and Workforce Development Undersecretary Ronald Marlow said. "Employees who improve their English skills at their jobs are more likely to stay with a company and be inspired to rise up through the ranks, boosting both their pay and the company's bottom line."

ENB and the English Works Campaign selected the seven business and labor/management partnerships based on nominations from the field for outstanding leadership in making English classes available to workers on the job. "The businesses recognized here today are seeing the big picture," said Claudia Green, Executive Director of English for New Bostonians. "Whether it's a bank, a manufacturer, or a bodega, these businesses understand that an investment in English skills has an impact today and is a vital down payment for growth and modernization into the future. We commend them all, as well as the unions, who, at the bargaining table and on the ground, have worked hard to institutionalize English classes and many other resources for their members."

English for New Bostonians also recognized members of the Student Leadership Initiative, a new team of former and current ESOL students working together to draw attention to the barriers faced by recent immigrants in their efforts to learn English as well as the substantial economic and social contributions immigrants make to our commonwealth.

Evgeniia Kagramanova, who emigrated from Russia in 2013 and studied English at the Asian American Civic Association and now studies economics at UMass Boston, spoke on behalf of the Student Leadership Initiative. "I know from my own experience and from the experiences of my classmates exactly what we want. We want better lives for ourselves and for our families. We work hard and we are ready to work even harder. The sooner more people can learn English, the sooner they will find better jobs, and the sooner they will be able to provide a decent future for their children; and accordingly, the sooner our community will be even stronger and more successful."

Awardees:

- **1199SEIU Training & Upgrading Fund**
in partnership with 1199SEIU Healthcare Workers East and the Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Workforce Council

- **AHEAD LLC**
in partnership with Bristol Community College

- **Bank of America**
in partnership with Asian American Civic Association

- **Bay Cove Human Services, Inc.**
in partnership with Catholic Charities/Haitian Multi-Service Center

- **Boloco**
in partnership with Jewish Vocational Service

- **Kettle Cuisine LLC**
in partnership with North Shore Community College

- **South Shore Bank**
in partnership with Massasoit Community College

This event has been made possible through the generous support of many sponsors including:



English for New Bostonians' mission is to increase access to high-quality English language learning opportunities for adult immigrants. English Works is a statewide, multi-stakeholder campaign calling upon business, labor, community and government leaders to dedicate the needed public and private resources to create a sustainable, high-quality English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) system that addresses the needs of immigrants, their employers and the Commonwealth.