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# Registration Open for Forum to Create Strategic Plan to Welcome Refugees, Immigrants

KICK-OFF MEETING IS FIRST OF SEVERAL TO DISCUSS  
IDEAS AND TO GATHER INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

SAN DIEGO – Registration is now open for the public to join San Diego elected officials, educators and business representatives in developing a strategic plan that will help welcome and integrate immigrants and refugees into the community. Those interested in participating must register online at [www.welcomingsd.eventbrite.com](http://www.welcomingsd.eventbrite.com).

**“The San Diego region has a strong reputation as a welcoming place for immigrants and refugees and their contributions to our culture and economy,” said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. “This new program will help ensure that continues by providing support and resources for those who come to our city in search of a better life.”**

The first of a series of community forums will be held Friday, Feb. 2, at the San Diego Community Concourse. Approximately 300 people are expected to hear from speakers and participate in breakout sessions focused on civic engagement, safe and connected communities, economic opportunity, education and inclusive access.

**“Providing opportunities for immigrants and refugees to acclimate to their new home not only helps them, but ultimately benefits all San Diegans,” said Dr. Joel Day, Executive Director of the City of San Diego’s Human Relations Commission. “We encourage the public to participate as everyone’s input and opinion is vitally important on this issue.”**

The [Welcoming SD](#) program is a partnership between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Economic Development Corporation and other non-governmental institutions and advocacy groups.

The strategic planning, public outreach and research process will culminate in a multi-year blueprint to institutionalize efforts of immigrant integration in local communities. It will also develop concrete strategies and recommendations to maximize the contributions of the immigrant and refugee community in San Diego. The final report and recommendations will be delivered to the Mayor and City Council later this year.

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