

# New Jersey Immigration Policy Network

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## **INTEGRATION BUILDS STRONGER NEW JERSEY- New Jersey Immigration Policy Network supports release of Blue Ribbon Panel Report.**

JERSEY CITY, NJ—On Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, New Jersey residents will unite at Jersey City University in conjunction with the release of Gov. Jon Corzine’s Blue Ribbon Panel Report on Immigrant Integration. Marlene Lao-Collins, First Vice Chair of the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network welcomed the issuance of the Panel’s report, stating, “This document serves as a blueprint for integrating immigrants in New Jersey and other states. It provides the foundation for implementation of legislation, policies and procedures that will ensure New Jersey’s economic growth and stability. NJIPN congratulates Governor Corzine for bringing together this august and diverse group that worked so diligently on the report. We look forward to working with Governor Corzine, our legislators and communities to turn this blueprint into a series of reforms that will demonstrate immigration integration will improve everyone’s life.”

Charles “Shai” Goldstein (who served on the panel), executive director of the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network released the following statement:

“Understanding New Jersey’s historic role as a gateway of opportunity for the tens of millions of immigrants who have landed on its shores, the report lays the groundwork for making real solutions that moves all of New Jersey forward together. Its fact-based findings and recommendations address critical issues that affect all New Jersey residents, regardless of status, and their children. Issues like education, public safety, social services and labor demand workable solutions that are based on reality, not ideology or xenophobia. As communities throughout New Jersey and the nation pull together amidst this difficult economic landscape, this report is crucial to our future growth.

“As a recent report by Eagleton Institute of Politics demonstrated, the economic future of New Jersey depends on investment in immigrants.

Furthermore, more than one third of New Jersey children live in a home where at least one parent is foreign-born. According to a report just released this past week by the Population Reference Bureau, English language proficiency remains as one of the key barriers for children’s success in our schools. NJIPN’s empowering Immigrant Parents programming is a component in meeting this challenge.

“The hope and promise of a college education has historically been a cornerstone for American democracy and meritocracy. Discriminating against children who reside in New Jersey but were not born here denies them that dream for success.

“Adopting this Report provides a blueprint for economic success through inclusion. The next crucial step in that process is creation of an effective, staffed Office on New Americans.”

*The New Jersey Immigration Policy Network is a broad-based coalition of New Jersey organizations dedicated to protecting immigrant rights and promoting inclusiveness and full participation of immigrants in the life of the country. The Network is committed to incorporating the experience of grassroots communities in its policy and advocacy work. As a distinct institution, the Network works to enhance the effectiveness of pro-immigrant organizations and movements, and to facilitate communication, common purpose, and collaboration among them.*