Global Detroit receives $10,000, national recognition

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By Rachel Premack

Global Detroit, a nonprofit focused on mobilizing immigrant potential for an economically strong Metro Detroit, won a $10,000 grant Tuesday in Des Moines as part of the Renewal Awards by **Allstate Corp.** and **Atlantic Media**.

Six organizations, including Global Detroit, were selected for the Renewal Award for their efforts to address local problems through innovative practices. The yearlong national search looked for programs that could be replicated in other communities and the program's current and future impact.

Global Detroit's ProsperUS Detroit initiative proved especially impressive to judges, according to an Allstate news release. The entrepreneurship program supports minority and immigrant business owners through training, microloans and technical assistance. Global Detroit also works with the city of Detroit's overall entrepreneurship and business connectivity push, enabling immigrant entrepreneurs to network with the community to find properties and other opportunities.

Global Detroit will use the $10,000 prize to continue the development of international student retention, professional connector and entrepreneurial support programs, according to a Global Detroit news release.

"The Renewal Award solidifies Global Detroit's reputation as a national leader in an emerging field of immigrant economic development, as well as a national leader in developing innovative and creative solutions to revitalizing Detroit and metro Detroit's economy," Global Detroit Director Steve Tobocman said in the release.

Each of the six awardees will also be profiled in the *National Journal,* an Atlantic Media publication:

- **B Lab** (Wayne, Pa.) – Since 2007, B Lab has certified more than 1,500 companies around the world as B Corps, meaning they meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability. These companies conduct business in ways that benefit society and shareholders by creating a positive impact on employees, communities and the environment.
- **Champlain Housing Trust** (Burlington, Vt.) – For more than 30 years, Champlain Housing Trust has provided low- to middle-income families with opportunities to achieve the American dream of homeownership. Nearly 1,000 families have

participated in CHT's shared-equity program, which provides down payment assistance and helps individuals secure mortgages and build wealth, while preserving home affordability.

- **P-TECH (**New York City) – Classroom learning and workplace experience come together at P-TECH, a public-private partnership co-developed by IBM that provides underserved students with an education to meet the challenges of the 21st century workforce. The P-TECH model combines high school, community college and work experience. Within six years, students earn a high school diploma and an associate degree in a STEM discipline. P-TECH also provides students mentoring, paid internships and employment opportunities from its partner companies, including IBM. By this fall, there will be at least 60 schools modeled after P-TECH.

- **The WorkPlace** (Bridgeport, Conn.) – Through an intensive five-week program, Platform to Employment (P2E), a project of The WorkPlace, provides the long-term unemployed with job readiness training and assistance in finding employment. As part of its program, P2E offers to subsidize eight weeks of participants' salaries to entice companies to give participants opportunities for permanent jobs. Nearly 90 percent of P2E participants have retained employment.

- **Girlstart** (Austin, Texas) – This nonprofit won a unique Renewal Award called the Youth Empowerment award, which represents Allstate's commitment to empowering future generations. Girlstart engages middle school girls in STEM studies, providing year-round STEM education for girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. Participants enjoy hands-on activities such as computer coding, 3D printing, dissecting starfish and designing robots to help clean the ocean.