



GOLDEN DOOR AWARD GALA

45th Golden
Door Award Gala

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2027

Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport
450 Summer St. Boston MA

The 2027 Golden Door Award Gala honors Nobel Prize-winning economist Dr. Daron Acemoglu, whose work has demonstrated that inclusive institutions create opportunity, prosperity, and stronger societies. This theme reflects both Dr. Acemoglu's scholarship and IINE's belief that when newcomers have access to education, employment, legal protections, and community, everyone benefits.



Golden Door Award

For more than 50 years, the International Institute of New England has presented the Golden Door Award to an individual born outside the United States whose contributions have strengthened American society in extraordinary ways.

The award celebrates the enduring impact of immigrants and refugees on our communities, economy, culture, and civic life. Each year, the Golden Door Award Gala brings together business leaders, philanthropists, policymakers, and community members to honor an immigrant whose achievements exemplify the promise of opportunity.

The award takes its name from Emma Lazarus's words inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty: "From her beacon hand glows world-wide welcome ... I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Past Golden Door Award Honorees

I.M. Pei – 1970	Benjamin Zander – 2007
Arthur Fiedler – 1971	Mike Lowell – 2008
Anthony Athanas – 1972	Deborah Dunsire – 2011
Stephen P. Mugar – 1973	The Honorable Margaret Marshall – 2013
Gisela Wyzanski – 1974	Dr. Omid Farokhzad – 2014
Jean Mayer – 1976	Claudio Del Vecchio – 2016
Charles Maliotis – 1977	Dr. Noubar Afeyan – 2017
Humberto Sousa Cardinal Medeiros – 1978	Dr. L. Rafael Reif – 2018
Joseph Pellegrino – 1979	Dr. Joseph Aoun – 2019
Laszlo J. Bonis – 1981	Reshma Kewalramani, M.D. – 2021
Gerhard Neumann – 1981	Stéphane Bancel – 2022
An Wang – 1982	Srikant M. Datar – 2023
John D. Constable – 1983	Dr. Giovanni Caforio – 2024
Jill Ker Conway – 1985	Boston Centennial Celebration – 2025
Thomas J. Flatley – 1986	Dr. Yvonne Greenstreet – 2026
Arthur Loeb – 1987	
Yo-Yo Ma – 1988	
Bernard Lown – 1989	
Farouk El-Baz – 1992	
Charles L. Schepens – 1994	
George N. Hatsopoulos – 1996	
Lelio “Les” Marino – 1998	
Henri A. Termeer – 1999	
Gururaj “Desh” Deshpande – 2001	
Orit Gadiesh – 2002	
Gabriel Schmergel – 2004	
Alex d’Arbeloff – 2004	
Victor Dzau – 2005	
Dr. Kenan E. Sahin – 2006	



2027 Golden Door Honoree



DR. DARON ACEMOGLU

Institute Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Daron Acemoglu is an Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the world's most influential economists, and co-recipient of the 2024 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. His groundbreaking research has transformed our understanding of how strong institutions, economic opportunity, and democratic participation shape prosperity and human flourishing.

A leading scholar of economic development, inequality, labor markets, and technological change, Acemoglu is the bestselling co-author of *Why Nations Fail*, *The Narrow Corridor*, and *Power and Progress*. His work demonstrates that societies thrive when people have access to opportunity, rights, education, and pathways to contribute their talents—principles that closely reflect the mission of the International Institute of New England.

At MIT, Acemoglu serves as Faculty Co-Director of the Stone Center on Inequality and Shaping the Future of Work. Through his research and writing, he has helped policymakers, business leaders, and communities better understand how inclusive institutions create stronger economies and more prosperous futures for all.

Our Mission

The mission of the International Institute of New England is to create opportunities for refugees and immigrants to succeed through resettlement, education, career advancement, and pathways to citizenship.

Founded in more than a century ago by a pioneering group of women as a community effort to welcome newcomers immigrating to the area, IINE today serves thousands of refugees and immigrants annually, with programs in Boston and Lowell Massachusetts, and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Our Services

INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

IINE provides critical support to refugees and others who have experienced forced displacement to lay a solid foundation for their life in the U.S. Our team works to ensure families and individuals have access to housing, healthcare, and food; register children in school; and learn to navigate a new community.

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Nearly all our clients benefit from professional immigration legal advice and services. For people seeking work authorization, permanent resident status, citizenship, humanitarian parole for loved ones, family reunification, and much more, we provide professional, compassionate, and affordable legal services. In 2026, hundreds of refugees and immigrants received free or low-cost immigration legal support from IINE's culturally and trauma-informed legal team. This type of support is dangerously scarce in New England despite tremendous need.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION

In 2026, more than 1,000 immigrant adults enrolled in our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), job readiness, industry-specific skills training classes, and employment programs. We help adults find employment and offer specialized training programs to prepare clients for roles in the healthcare and construction industries, sectors experiencing significant workforce gaps.

NAVIGATING CONSTANTLY CHANGING IMMIGRATION POLICY

As the federal administration seeks to limit humanitarian immigration pathways, revoke legal statuses, and reduce funding for these vulnerable communities, IINE continues to be a leading voice and advocate in the fight to protect refugees and immigrants. We remind our elected leaders of the United States' commitment to welcoming people fleeing violence and persecution around the world, inform our clients of their rights, and through our immigration legal services team, assist clients as they pursue more permanent statuses.



Their Stories, Your Impact



ALI

Growing up amid war and instability in Afghanistan, Ali dedicated his life to social change, advocating for peace and the rights of women and youth. When the Taliban returned to power, he became a target because of his activism and was forced to flee. He arrived in Massachusetts with little more than a suitcase. Thankfully, IINE was there. Our team helped him find housing, navigate the workforce, and continue his higher education pursuits. Today, Ali is working in biotech while earning a master's degree at Tufts University. He remains committed to his advocacy on behalf of the family and friends he had to leave behind in Afghanistan.



EFDJEEN

Efdjeen always knew she wanted to help people. In her home country of Haiti, she worked tirelessly to pursue this goal. But just when she was on the verge of beginning her dream career as a doctor, everything fell apart. Gangs attacked her family's neighborhood and destroyed their home, forcing them to flee. In the U.S., Efdjeen had no choice but to begin again. She worked retail and factory jobs to support her family before finding a pathway back to healthcare through IINE's Certified Nursing Assistant training program. Today, she is a medical assistant at the Lowell Community Health Center, where she cares for fellow refugees and immigrants. She is also back at school with her sights set on her next career goal: becoming an anesthesiologist.



BASHIR

Bashir was forced to leave his beloved home country of Somalia after extremist violence claimed the lives of two of his own family members. He spent seven years in a refugee camp in Ethiopia, where he found purpose and hope in learning English, teaching literacy classes, and supporting his fellow refugees. Finally, Bashir learned he had been approved to resettle in the U.S. IINE staff met him at the airport, and helped him to find housing, access food and healthcare, and secure a job. Today, Bashir works as a concierge and interpreter, and is studying software development. He looks forward to getting his first car, voting in his first U.S. election, and "giv[ing] something back to the American community that has really helped me a lot."

IINE Board of Directors

Avak Kahvejian, PhD, Chair, General Partner at Flagship Pioneering

Natalya Belonozhko, SVP Corporate Controller at Global Atlantic Financial Group

Sam Épée-Bounya, Managing Director at Wellington Management

Zoltan Csimma, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer (Retired) at Genzyme Corporation

Scott FitzGerald, Managing Partner (Retired) at the Boston, Massachusetts office of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP

Richard Golob, Cofounder and CEO at Quantori

Tuan Ha-Ngoc, President and CEO (Retired) at AVEO Oncology

Belinda Juran, Partner (Retired) at WilmerHale

Will Krause, Senior Portfolio Manager and Senior Vice President at Northern Trust

Libby May, Senior Vice President, External Affairs and Communications at Southern New Hampshire University

Theo Melas-Kyriazi, Advisor Partner at Flagship Pioneering

Ann Merrifield, President and CEO (Retired) at PathoGenetix, Inc.

Yesim Richardson, Senior Vice President at Cornerstone Research

Wade Rubinstein, Founder and President at The Bike Connector, Inc.

Carolina San Martin, Managing Director and Global Head of Sustainable Investing Research at State Street Investment Management

Jeff Thielman, President and CEO at the International Institute of New England

Fereshtah Thornberg, Executive Vice President, Head of Sales & Client Management, North America at State Street



Sponsorship Benefits

Special non-profit and community partner pricing is available. Please reach out to us at events@iine.org to learn more.

Golden Legacy - \$250,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Special recognition from the stage during live presentation
- 25 tickets in a premium location at the event
- Listing on tabletop display
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event communication
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event webpage with clickable link to your company website
- Pre-event post sent out highlighting sponsor to our 10,000+ LinkedIn followers
- Sponsors at this level have an opportunity to select an "impact" area for their sponsorship
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Benefactor - \$100,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- 15 tickets in a premium location at the event
- Listing on tabletop display
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event communication
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event webpage with clickable link to your company website
- Pre-event post sent out highlighting sponsor to our 10,000+ LinkedIn followers
- Sponsors at this level have an opportunity to select an "impact" area for their sponsorship
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Leadership Tribute - \$150,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Two (2) tables of 10 in a premium location at the event
- Listing on tabletop display
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event communication
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event webpage with clickable link to your company website
- Pre-event post sent out highlighting sponsor to our 10,000+ LinkedIn followers
- Sponsors at this level have an opportunity to select an "impact" area for their sponsorship
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Champion - \$50,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Table of 10 in a premium location at event
- Listing on tabletop display
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event communication
- Prominent listing of company logo/donor name on event webpage with clickable link to your company website
- Pre-event post sent out highlighting sponsor to our 10,000+ LinkedIn followers
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Sponsorship Benefits

Advocate - \$25,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Table of 10 in a premium location at event
- Listing on tabletop display
- Listing of company/donor name on event webpage
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Promoter - \$10,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Six (6) tickets to the event
- Listing of company/donor name on event webpage
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Friend - \$2,500

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Two (2) tickets to the event
- Listing of company/donor name on event webpage
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Partner - \$15,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Table of 10
- Listing of company/donor name on event webpage
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report

Ally - \$5,000

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Four (4) tickets to the event
- Listing of company/donor name on event webpage
- Inclusion of company logo/donor name in event slideshow
- Listing in the IINE Annual Report



THE EXAMPLES BELOW ILLUSTRATE HOW YOUR SPONSORSHIP DOLLARS CAN CHANGE LIVES.

Your sponsorship immediately impacts the thousands of refugees and immigrants served by IINE every year.

\$500,000

Helps us launch new programming to respond to the critical and emergency needs of thousands of refugees and immigrants forced from their homes.

\$250,000

Supports the food and basic household needs of 200 resettling refugee families.

\$150,000

Supports 40 refugees during their first year in the U.S. by providing access to case workers, essential support services, and English language training.

\$100,000

Provides 50 child survivors of human trafficking with transition support from dedicated licensed social workers.

\$50,000

Contributes to life-changing one-to-one mentoring and skills support for 25 refugee and immigrant youth and young adults.

\$25,000

Helps reunite five unaccompanied immigrant children with their families in the U.S. by providing essential services and access to licensed bilingual case workers.

\$15,000

Enables 45 immigrants and refugees to improve their English and communication skills through classes taught by experienced ESOL instructors.

\$10,000

Helps 15 adult refugees secure employment in New England.

\$5,000

Enables four immigrant families to access free legal services to establish a pathway to citizenship.

\$2,500

Provides a month's worth of food for five newly arrived refugee families.

