

GAINESVILLE
AS A
WELCOMING CITY

Gainesville is leading the state & region:

University of Florida Preeminence

Innovation Hub

Santa Fe College Aspen Prize

Sister Cities

Gainesville should lead as the first Welcoming City in Florida!

#140739B

ACKNOWLEDGE IMMIGRANTS AMONG US

- There are more than 6,000 international students at UF and more than 2,000 at Santa Fe.
- More than 15,000 Gainesville residents are non-citizens.
- Foreign buyers account for more than \$100 million in annual real estate purchases.

MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITY – MINIMIZE FRICTION

As a Welcoming City we will aim to:

- make the most of immigrant diversity and talent
- support long-term economic & social integration
- create a welcoming social and business climate
- sustain positive interactions between long-term residents and recent arrivals

WHERE WE ARE

- Welcoming Gainesville, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in December 2015.
- Board of Directors:

Aqueela Khuddus, Khadija Foundation

Rabbi David Kaiman, Congregation B'nai Israel

Rev. Andrew Bachmann, United Church of Gainesville

Rev. Milford L. Griner, Hall Chapel United Methodist Church

Steven Kalishman, Sister City Program

Samuel Trickey, National Farm Worker Ministry

Richard MacMaster, Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice

George Williams, Westminster Presbyterian Church

WHERE WE ARE

- Advisory Committee:

Staci Bertrand, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce

Vilma Fuentes, Santa Fe College

Richard Gehman, Oak Hall School

Rev. Dan Johnson, Trinity United Methodist Church

Owen Roberts, Superintendent of Alachua County Schools

- Executive Director and Volunteer Committee

RECENT EVENTS

- Interfaith Rally at City Hall
December 14, 2015
- Welcoming Diversity –
A Community Action Forum
Against Islamophobia and Intolerance
Thomas Center, January 20, 2016
- News coverage by GTN, The
Gainesville Sun, TV-20, WUFT



NEXT STEPS

- Official membership in the Welcoming America network
- Training and support from Welcoming America
- Collaboration with local groups and community leaders
- Preparation for Welcoming Week, Sept. 16-25, 2016