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# Immigrants In Our Midst Conference Webinar Speakers

## Times:

**8-8:10 am Welcome**

**8:10-8:50 am 1st Presentation ( Kathy Bernard)**

**8:55 -9:35 am 2nd Presentation ( Dr. Alicia Plemmons )**

**9:35-9:45 am Break**

**9:45-10:25 am 3rd Presentation ( Nalini S. Mahadevan Key  
Note Speaker)**

**10:30-11:10 am 4th Presentation (Tony Fuhrmann & Matt  
Jones )**

**11:15- 11:55 am 5th Presentation (Diana Alfaro )**

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## Biographies and Pictures of Speakers



Kathy Bernard is the CEO of WiserU.com and a gifted speaker, corporate LinkedIn trainer, and consultant. She trains groups and individuals to maximize LinkedIn for business or career –100% tailored to your specific needs. Her company, WiserU, LLC, also provides LinkedIn profile and resume optimization services so that you can score extremely high for the job you want or for what you sell, on the world’s largest business network -- LinkedIn.

Before launching WiserU, Bernard was an award-winning corporate communications leader, racking up 27 awards for communications excellence on behalf of Enterprise Holdings, CBS Radio, Caleres, and the (Agriculture) Equipment Dealers Association. She was named a “Top 100 People to Know” by St. Louis Small Business Monthly in 2019.

She has personally coached 1,500+ individuals, reached more than 1.6 million people through her popular WiserUTips.com blog, and led more than 1,000 training sessions, including many webinars on JobTransition.TV. Book her today for expert group or individual LinkedIn training.

To learn more, search Google for St. Louis LinkedIn expert!



Alicia Plemmons is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics & Finance, within the School of Business, at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She completed her Ph.D. in Economics at Georgia State University in August of 2019. Prior to this she was at the University of South Carolina where she completed an M.A. in Economics and a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

Alicia is an applied microeconomist specializing in public, labor, and urban economics. Her research uses applied spatial and econometric methods to understand how policy and regulations changes affect labor markets. She studies how to create environments that facilitate healthy economic growth and business development through research that seeks to understand the motivations that determine entry, operating, and exit decisions of firms, laborers, and consumers. She complements her empirical background with the use of technology-driven techniques such as large-scale data scraping, geographic information systems, and predictive machine learning.

Alicia teaches a variety of public economics courses related to taxation and expenditure at the local, state, and national-levels. Her students are introduced to public policy design and implementation through meeting developers at all levels of government and designing policy briefs over the course of the semester. Alicia trains students to work with real world data to address policy impacts through mentorship and working with the Undergraduate Research and Creative Arts program.



Nalini S. Mahadevan is the Principal Attorney with MLO Law LLC and has been in practice since 2003, specializing in Immigration, Estate Planning, Special Needs and Elder Law. Her clientele includes both corporate employers and individuals. She is outside General Counsel for Phoenix Group of Companies and Alderperson, City of Frontenac, Missouri. Nalini's career started off as a corporate lawyer in India for five years before relocating to the United States. She holds an undergraduate degree in Accounting, a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Mumbai, India, an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis and a JD from Saint Louis University School of Law. She is a member of the Missouri Bar, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL), and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Nalini was recently recognized and awarded the 2020 STL Business Journal Most Influential Business Women Award. She is passionate about community development and volunteers her time as an advisor to several local non-profits – The Arya Foundation, The Hindu Temple of St. Louis and Bal Vihar of St. Louis, to mention a few. A 2014 graduate of Leadership St. Louis, she also taught Law Practice Management and Immigration Law as an Adjunct Professor at Saint Louis University School of Law. Nalini was the Chair of the Missouri Bar Immigration Committee and one of the founding members of the South Asian Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (SABA). She is currently the Division Chair of the Specialty Committee of the MO Bar. She is a well-respected attorney with a great sense of humor making her a frequent speaker for the Missouri Bar and BAMSL. Nalini is no stranger to the world of social media - she blogs, tweets and has informational videos on YouTube talking on useful topics related to the areas of her law practice. Her book, 'How to Start a Law Practice and Succeed', a primer for new lawyers and those transitioning from a large law firm are based on her personal experience.



Tony Fuhrmann has served as Director of Employment and Training for Madison County since August of 2017. Prior to joining Madison County he served as Chief Financial Officer for the Bureau of Property Management, Central Management Services, state of Illinois for 2 years. Previously he was employed with the Department of Human Services at the state level for 17 years. He was involved in welfare reform initiatives and workforce development programs including being part of the initial Governor's Interagency Team for Workforce Development in the early 2000's. He worked for Anheuser Busch in the Logistics Department for 10 years. He holds a Master of Marketing Research Degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.



Matt Jones has been in workforce development for nearly 28 years, starting as a Youth Supervisor under the JTPA program in Madison County and progressing to his current position as Workforce Development Group Coordinator with the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department. Along the way, Matt has been fortunate enough to work in many different areas of workforce development, including youth services, adult career counseling, business services, veterans outreach and workforce investment board staff. He sees work-based learning, with a focus on registered apprenticeships, as the key to helping alleviate the skilled worker shortage in Local Workforce Investment Area 24 as well as the entire St. Louis region. Matt considers working with local partners and organizations to provide the much needed skilled workforce for area businesses as vital to the region's economic success while also being very professionally and personally fulfilling.



Diana Alfaro serves the State of Illinois as the Latino Business Development Manager for the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). In her role, she supports and empowers Latinx-owned businesses by providing resources and information regarding services and incentives available through the State. Ms. Alfaro also services as a member of the outreach team for DCEO's social equity cannabis program.