



# QUARTERLY NEWS



**Monica Limas**  
*Director of the  
Immigration and  
Citizenship Program  
at CET*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Although we have experienced many challenges this year due to the current administration's ever-shifting policies, we thank you for supporting the Immigration and Citizenship Program (ICP) at the Center for Employment Training (CET).

As part of our quest to inform and educate, we are excited to bring you our first ever Quarterly Newsletter. We hope that you will find it informative and useful.

ICP was first conceived to meet the demands of the Immigration and Reform Act of 1986. Since then, we have been able to help well over 100,000 people through the immigration process. As Director of this program, I take great pride in our daily accomplishments serving the community. Our number one goal is to help families stay together.

Based on CET's philosophy of self-determination, ICP's mission is to provide high quality immigration

and citizenship services and promote and strengthen civic involvement among the immigrant population. ICP offers support services, application assistance, legal consultations and representation to mixed-status families and legal permanent residents in the South Bay. Our staff is accredited by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and our volunteers are dedicated to serving their community.

Due to the continuously changing political landscape, the ability to provide current and accurate information to help community members remain safe has become absolutely critical. With your help, we can ensure that immigrants have a safe place to turn to regarding their immigration needs.

Together we can ensure vital resources are available to protect those most in need. Together we will continue the fight to keep families together.

## TOP 5 REASONS TO **BECOME A CITIZEN**

1

### **Have the right to vote**

Your voice can now be heard. You can get involved to make changes that you want to see happen in your community.

2

### **Be eligible for federal employment or benefits**

You can now apply for government jobs and be able to access Social Security benefits.

3

### **Be able to travel abroad for long periods of time**

You can now enter and exit the United States with the security of a U. S. passport (must apply for a U.S. passport)

4

### **Be able to sponsor your family for green cards**

As a U.S. citizen you can petition to have your family join you in the United States.

5

### **Citizenship for your children**

As a U.S. citizen, your children have the right to citizenship through you.





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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



(408) 534-5451



help@cet-icp.org



http://cet-icp.org

If you would like to know why so many of the current myths about immigration are inaccurate at best, visit <https://www.tolerance.org> to learn the real facts about immigrants in our country today.

# UPCOMING EVENTS **CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP**

Join us in San Jose on April 13th and April 27th! Come to San Jose City College on April 13th or April 27th starting at 8:00 a.m. to apply to become a U.S. citizen. We offer free citizenship eligibility screening, application assistance and review of your application by immigration attorneys and DOJ-accredited representatives.

### You must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ You are at least 18 years old
- ✓ Reside in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident for 5 years or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Been physically present in the U.S. for more than half of the five- or three-year period

### What to bring:

- ✓ Green card and social security card
- ✓ List of ALL trips outside the US for the last 5 years
- ✓ List of address and job history for the last 5 years
- ✓ Family information for ALL children and spouses (current and former)
- ✓ If you have ever been arrested, certificates of disposition for all arrests (court records)

The USCIS fee to apply for citizenship is \$725, payable to "US Department of Homeland Security" via check or money order. San Jose City College is located at: 2100 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95128 and parking is \$3.00 per vehicle.

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF: **RAQUEL BROWN**

Raquel Brown, a Mexico native, has been practicing immigration law as a Department of Justice Accredited Representative since June of 2000. She came to the United States at the age of six and grew up there. Raquel started working in the fields at the age of nine and obtained her lawful permanent residency through the Special Agricultural Workers Program under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

It wasn't until she started working in the field of immigration law that she realized the importance of becoming a U.S. citizen. Raquel became a U.S. citizen in 2002 and since then has been helping many others do the same. Her true passion is helping others. She feels blessed to be able to contribute to her community in this way. Raquel is very resourceful and very methodical. This often works to her clients' advantage especially where very complex legal issues exist.