Influential immigrants talk about impact they have on Tennessee's economy

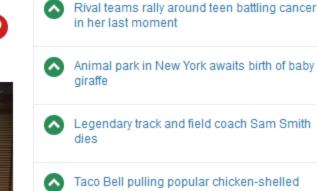
By Najahe Sherman

Published: February 21, 2017, 5:59 pm | Updated: February 21, 2017, 7:44 pm









Trending on WKRN.com

22 lbs of cocaine, heroin, guns seized in

major Nashville drug bust



There are 2 videos inside this story. Click here to make sure you see both from the News 2 арр.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WKRN) – On Tuesday, representatives with the Department of Homeland Security released two new memos saying they are going to hire 15,000 new employees to help with enforcement.

In response, business leaders went to Tennessee's capitol to talk about the impact immigrants have on the state's economy.

"We are here today for one reason. We are here to provide better information. I think the key part of this debate or the confusion is because we don't have accurate data," said Dr. Ming Wang, one of several business leaders who discussed immigration reform at Legislative Plaza.

Data released from the New American Economy shows the economic significance of immigrants in Tennessee.

According to the report, immigrants in Tennessee have a household income of \$7.9 billion. They paid more than \$493 million in state and local taxes and have a spending power of \$5.9 billion.

Immigrants account for more than 21,400 of Tennessee's entrepreneurs and

Dr. Ming Wang with President Ronald Reagan (Courtesy: Dr. Ming Wang)

provide jobs for more then 57,000 Tennesseans through immigrant-owned firms.

The immigrants News 2 spoke with hope exposing lawmakers to the new data will help them make better policies to help the entire community.

"I am here to share my story. I think there is a lot misunderstanding about what immigrants do and what we can offer and do offer to this country we are so grateful for," said Fabian Bedne, who immigrated to Nashville from Argentina.

Bedne has severed as a member of the Metro Council since 2011.

"When I was growing up, there was a dictatorship. A military dictatorship. My older brother was serving in the military. He was kidnanned and we never saw him again. I lived through the dictatorship in fear, because back then when they would come after one, the would come after the whole family," said Bedne.

Bedne now owns an architectural firm and enjoys giving back to the the community through his role in Metro Council.

"We know that is good for our economy. If people want to come here and be productive, if people want to come here and start businesses, we all benefit," said Ralph Schulz the Nashville Chamber Commerce President.



Dr. Wang told News 2 immigration reform is a cause he feels passionately about because he is also an immigrant.

"I grew up in China during the cultural revolution when millions of youth were deported, to the poorest part of the country and condemned to a lifetime of poverty and hard labor," said Dr. Wang.

Dr. Wang moved to the United States when he was 21 years old with only \$50 in his pocket and a dream.



(Courtesy: Dr. Ming Wang)

He proceeded to obtain degrees from

Harvard Medical School and MIT. Dr. Wang is considered one of the leading eye surgeons in the nation and he is based here in Nashville.

According to the New American Economy, more than 322,000 immigrants call Tennessee home.

Share this:













Related Posts

Executive order on border wall sends chills down spines of Nashville immigrants



Nashville mother, daughter stay home to take part in Day Without Immigrants



'Day Without Immigrants' protests being held across



How 'Day Without Immigrants' is affecting Nashville



You May Like



My Husband and I Tried Blue Apron, Here's What Happened Blue Apron



New Executive Order: Big Changes for Retirees Money Morning



Quicken Loans Urges Homeowners To Switch To A 1... QuickenLoans

WKRN.com



© 2000 - 2017 wkrn.com | Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc. | All rights reserved.

Powered by WordPress.com VIP

Sections

News Video Sports Traffic Community

Twitter Facebook Contact Us Advertise History Jobs at WKRN

Station

Terms of Use Privacy Policy FCC Public File EEO Report Closed Captioning Certification Closings & Delays Children's Contests Programming Closed Captioning Nexstar Media Group

Business

Distribution Partners

Follow

<u>N</u> <u>⊌</u> **f p o**









