



**Peter Briggs**  
**Director, Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS)**  
**Michigan State University**

**Peter Briggs** has served as Director of the OISS since October 2001. He has more than 30 years experience in the field of services to international students and scholars. Prior to coming to MSU, Peter served in a number of administrative roles at the University of Oregon and was a grants administrator at the Institute of International Education. He has held a variety of leadership roles and served on boards for NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the Council of International Schools and Educational Evaluators, Inc. Peter holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Washington and a master's degree in Education Policy and Management from the University of Oregon. His extensive professional travels have taken him throughout Europe, Latin America and Asia.

MSU has the 10th largest number of international students in the U.S. OISS hosts a special orientation program for new international students where they can enroll in classes and learn about academic advising, tutoring services and budgeting. They may also learn about classroom etiquette and typical American social atmosphere from returning international students.



**Steve Tobocman**  
**Director, Global Detroit**

**Steve Tobocman** has spent the past three years spearheading Global Detroit, a regional economic revitalization strategy for the Detroit area focused on immigration and global connections. Steve is the Managing Partner of New Solutions Group, a mission-driven consulting firm that develops smart, innovative, and collaborative solutions that often challenge old paradigms.

From 2003-2008, Steve served as the State Representative from Michigan 12th State House District in southwestern Detroit, representing one of the state's largest immigrant communities. In his last term, Steve served as the Majority Floor Leader, the second-ranking position in the House. During his time in the Michigan Legislature, Steve spearheaded efforts to protect immigrants from predatory immigrant service providers and wrote one of the nation's strong consumer protection laws for immigrants, the Michigan Immigration Clerical Act. Steve fought to create in-state tuition equity for undocumented students, insure immigrant access to work-study and state housing assistance programs, and fought against attacks on immigrants obtaining Michigan drivers licenses. He also championed a variety of community economic development policies. Currently, Steve also splits his

time with Global Detroit by co-directing the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University, as well as the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force, a 200-member organization that works to fight the foreclosure crisis in Michigan.



**Karen Phillippi**  
**Director**  
**Michigan Office for New Americans**

**Karen Phillippi** is the Deputy Director of the Michigan Office for New Americans in the Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder. She has been working in immigration law for more than 20 years. Karen began her work in immigration law by serving as the Immigration and State Department Specialist for U.S. Senator Don Riegle.

Most recently, Karen was the Immigration Services Business Manager for Miller Canfield's immigration practice, and spoke at numerous seminars on immigration-related topics. She is passionate about immigration and has served on a variety of advisory boards and committees related to the issue including the Board of Directors for Global Detroit; the Global Michigan Advisory Board and the subcommittees on Cultural Ambassadors and EB-5 Immigrant Investors; the Global Talent Retention Initiative Advisory Board; the Welcome Mat Detroit Advisory Board; and, the Ann Arbor SPARK Foreign Direct Investment Committee.

Karen is active in promoting the benefits that immigrants have on the economy, and making Michigan a more immigrant-friendly state.



**AnnMarie Schneider**  
**Director**  
**Program Planning and Development**  
**Institute for Public Policy and Social Research**

**AnnMarie Schneider** leads the program planning and development division of IPPSR and advises the Institute's communications and marketing strategies. Under her direction are the Michigan Applied Policy Grant Program and an annual public forum series featuring research expertise on current issues facing state legislatures. Having directed MSU's Legislative Leadership Program for several years, she advises IPPSR's citizen leadership programs along with international policy education efforts. AnnMarie also directs MSU's Canadian Studies Center and is vice chair of the Great Lakes International Trade and Transport Hub (GLITTH) Initiative. Her interests include economic development, policy education, and networking expertise to bring accurate information to bear on policy making.

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