



Meet IWR board member Pedro Molina



For an internationally acclaimed political cartoonist familiar with discomfort, Pedro Molina did not anticipate the physical shock of his first few days in Ithaca. He arrived from Nicaragua in the dead of winter, knowing very little about the area. Having been invited to teach a course at Ithaca College, Pedro perused photos online before his arrival. Unfortunately for his expectation-setting, all the photos he saw contained summer scenes. “Beyond the weather, I soon felt very welcome,” he says with a laugh. Read about Pedro's unique perspective on IWR's work in [our latest blog](#).

Introducing IWR's new logo and website!

In recognition of IWR's 10th anniversary this year, we are proud to announce the launch of a brand new logo and website! In a time of uncertainty, we are called to renew our efforts to be with and advocate for refugee and immigrant community members in need of support, and with this to engage a wider spectrum of the community in our mission. Our updated branding reflects this commitment. Take a moment to browse the [website](#)! Pages from our previous site have been updated, and new features include: a current news section on the home page, pages introducing who we are and our partners, dedicated resource pages for refugees and refugee sponsors, and an archive of recent newsletters. Check back for regular updates!

Welcoming two new arrivals

We are glad to still be welcoming new arrivals to our community, despite the reduced avenues for refugees to enter the country. This month we have connected with two individuals, both single men, who have just joined our community. IWR is working with them to establish the best ways in which we can support their resettlement.

IWR families attend tax clinic

Eleven IWR families attended a [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) clinic run by Ithaca College this month. Through individual appointments, they were able to learn how to file taxes for their income for the year and get answers to specific questions. Ithaca College offered this clinic to recently arrived refugees and immigrants in the area in partnership with IWR for the third year running.

Celebrating the milestone of citizenship

A member of one of the first families IWR assisted in their resettlement journey recently passed their citizenship exam! In a message to several community members and organizations who provided assistance and friendship, including IWR, the family shared "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported my family throughout this journey. Words cannot fully convey my gratitude in this message. My family's achievements, including finishing college, would not have been possible without your help. You all made this process much easier for me, and I never felt alone."

New 'Ithaca is a Sanctuary City' apparel at Sunny Days of Ithaca supports IWR



Sunny Days of Ithaca on the Commons is now selling a range of items printed with their new 'Ithaca Is a Sanctuary City' design. Check out the T-shirts, sweatshirts, totes and more now on sale in the store. For each item sold, \$3 goes directly to IWR programs. Thank you, Sunny Days, for this initiative!

Last chance to take the IWR Supporter Survey!

To everyone who has completed our supporter survey over the last month, thank you! And if you haven't yet done so, you still have a chance. We are extending the deadline to the end of this week to allow a few more of you time to respond. The [IWR Supporter Survey](#) will remain open until **Sunday, March 23**. Volunteers, donors and newsletter readers, please take a moment to give us your feedback if you have not already done so!

With thanks to our survey sponsors for donating these tantalizing prizes for the respondents' draw:

- 1) a 3 month all-inclusive membership to [Yoga Farm Ithaca](#)
- 2) a \$25 gift voucher for [Gimme! Coffee](#)

Winners will be contacted by the end of March.

[Take the survey](#)

Gratitude



This month we share our appreciation for community members who recently supported our work in unique ways:

- the board of the Cornell Young Professionals Colleague Network Group (pictured above with our Programs Coordinator Leigh Bacher), who organized a fundraising dinner benefiting IWR;
- the Ben and Jerry's Foundation and a community member who secured a 1:1 match for their donation to IWR from the Foundation;
- Reba McCutcheon from Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, who received the Good Neighbor Award from the Ithaca Board of Realtors for her involvement in making her community a better place, and donated her cash prize to IWR.

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