



Message from the Chairman of the Board of USCRI

Dear USCRI staff and partner agencies,

I am pleased to announce that after an extensive national search that included a number of interested candidates, the Board of Directors has unanimously appointed Mr. Eskinder Negash as Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Negash, a refugee himself, has devoted his entire distinguished career to addressing the needs of refugees and immigrants. Mr. Negash brings nearly 40 years of experience working on behalf of refugees and immigrants and managing non-profit social service agencies. Prior to joining USCRI, Mr. Negash served as Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), within the Administration of Children and Families, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2009-2015. With a budget of over 1.5 billion, the ORR is the largest government-funded refugee resettlement organization in the world. During Mr. Negash's tenure, the ORR provided essential services to more than 850,000 vulnerable people through its Resettlement Program, Rescue & Restore anti-trafficking campaign, and the Unaccompanied Children's Program. Mr. Negash has served as acting CEO of USCRI since September 2017.

Additionally, Mr. Negash served as Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the International Institute of Los Angeles for 15 years, and the Chief Operating Officer of USCRI from 2002-2009. Mr. Negash received an Outstanding American by Choice award from DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which recognizes naturalized U.S. citizens who have made significant contributions to both their community and their adopted country. In 2010, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) honored Mr. Negash as one of ten distinguished men and women whose stories of hope and transformation epitomize the refugee journey.

"The Board has expressed its full confidence in Eskinder and we are excited that he has accepted our offer as regular full time CEO. Eskinder's commitment to the mission, his leadership, experience, personal integrity, management, and personal story as a former refugee are important attributes as we confront, united as a team, the macro and micro economic and political factors facing our agency"

Mr. Negash stated: "I am blessed at the honor to continue working for this incredible organization that serves so much need, and also working alongside such a strong, dedicated team. I look forward to working with all staff to continue to advance the mission of USCRI."

Please join me in congratulating and supporting Eskinder as he assumes the position of Chief Executive Officer of USCRI.

Sincerely,

Gene DeFelice

Chairman of the Board of Directors of USCRI