PRESIDENTIAL AMBASSADORS FOR CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION

"As long as there are men and women like all of you who are willing to give so much for the right to call yourselves Americans, and as long as we do our part to keep the door open to those who are willing to earn their citizenship, then we're going to keep on growing our economy, we'll continue to journey forward, and we'll remind the world of why the United States of America is and always will be the greatest nation on Earth."
<div align="right">– President Barack Obama, July 4, 2014</div>

This first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Obama Administration and prominent new Americans and U.S.-born individuals with immigrant roots will harness their inspirational stories to promote naturalization, bolster integration initiatives, and increase awareness of the rich contributions of new Americans to every facet of American society. The inaugural cohort of Presidential Ambassadors for Citizenship and Naturalization includes prominent Americans who are contributing to the arts, business, and civic life.

José Andrés, Chef, Restaurateur, and Food Advocate
José Andrés is an internationally recognized culinary innovator, advocate for food and hunger issues, author, television personality, chef, and owner of more than 21 restaurants throughout the country in Washington, DC, Miami, Puerto Rico, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Andrés was born in Mieres, Spain and began cooking at an early age and was studying at a renowed culinary academy by age 16. In 1990, Andrés moved to New York City with little more than $50 and a set of cooking knives. He eventually moved to Washington, DC to become a chef and eventual partner at Jaleo. It was the beginning of his venture with what would become the ThinkFoodGroup, the company behind Andrés' restaurants, food products, media, educational initiatives, and philanthropy that employs nearly 1,000 people. Named as one of Time's "100" Most Influential People and awarded "Outstanding Chef" by the James Beard Foundation, Andrés is renowned for his educational efforts and passionate advocacy for ending world hunger, and has worked alongside First Lady Michelle Obama for the Let's Move campaign to end childhood obesity. His work has earned him awards and distinctions such as Outstanding American by Choice, awarded by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and presented by President Barack Obama as well as the McCall-Pierpaoli humanitarian award. In 2012, Andrés formed World Central Kitchen, a non-profit that provides smart solutions to hunger and poverty by using the power of food to empower communities and strengthen economies. After 23 years in the United States, Andrés and his wife because U.S. citizens in 2013.

Diane Guerrero, Actor
Diane Guerrero is an American actress best known for her roles as Maritza Ramos on the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black* and Lina on *Jane the Virgin*. She is an outspoken advocate for commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform and has worked with Immigrant Legal Resource Center and Mi Familia Vota, a nonpartisan Latino civic engagement organization to promote citizenship and voter registration. Guerrero was born in New Jersey to Colombian parents and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. She remained in the U.S. at a young age when her parents and older brother were deported back to Colombia. Her parents had pursued legal citizenship, but had been fraudulently represented. The deportation happened without warning. Thus, Guerrero came home one day to an empty house. She was subsequently taken in and cared for by family friends. Guerrero has overcome the loss of her family support system, but her life

experience compels her to advocate for immigration reform. It is also an influence that she draws upon in her acting. Her memoir, "In The Country We Love," will be published by Holt next spring.

Dave Matthews, Singer

Born in 1967 in Johannesburg, South Africa, Dave Matthews moved frequently during his childhood, and spent time in the United States and the United Kingdom as well as his native country. He spent his teenage years predominantly in Johannesburg, moving permanently to the United States at the age of 18. Matthews soon began writing songs on his acoustic guitar and playing jazz bars and rooftops in Charlottesville, Virginia. It was there that he met the other members of what became the very well-known Dave Matthews Band (DMB), formed in 1991. DMB made a lasting mark in the 1990s with an eclectic sound that drew from rock, jazz, folk, and world music. The grammy-winning band has sold more than 37million albums and over 19 million tickets; and the group's Bama Works Fund has raised over $40M for humanitarian and environmental initiatives. Matthews became a U.S. citizen in 1980 and remains deeply connected to his roots in South Africa, where he travels back often and finds inspiration that contributes to his art and music.

Fernando Valenzuela, Baseball Player and Broadcaster

Fernando Valenzuela is a former Major League Baseball pitcher. In 1981, Valenzuela burst onto the baseball scene as a pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers. During his rookie season, he was voted National League's Rookie of the Year, won the Cy Young Award, an honor given to the best major league pitcher each year, and led the Dodgers to the World Series Championship. He also touched off a phenomenon known as "Fernandomania," increasing attendance at both home and road games he pitched at. Over the course of his 17-year pitching career, he earned many additional awards, including the Silver Slugger Award. Valenzuela also became an inspiring icon in the Latino community. Today, he is a Spanish-language broadcaster on SportsNet LA, enduring himself to the latest generation of Dodger fans. The youngest of twelve children, Valenzuela grew up in the small town of Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico. He started his baseball career playing for the Mexican Central League in 1977. On July 22, 2015, he became a U.S. citizen at a naturalization ceremony in Downtown Los Angeles. His wife Linda, a former schoolteacher from Mexico, also recently became a U.S. citizen