

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Upwardly Global Honors Bay Area Executive and Community Foundation for Outstanding Leadership

*John Chen and Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D. also congratulated by Mayor Edwin Lee for their leadership in  
immigrant integration*

**San Francisco, October 2, 2013** – [Upwardly Global](#) (UpGlo), a national nonprofit organization with a mission to eliminate employment barriers for skilled immigrants and refugees and integrate this population into the professional U.S. workforce, honored two Bay Area civic leaders at its annual 2013 Passport to Possibilities Gala at the Fairmont Hotel. More than 350 guests attended the event, which raised over \$340,000 in support of UpGlo's mission and programs.

The evening commenced with a cocktail reception where **San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee** congratulated this year's honorees: **John Chen**, Senior Advisor at Silver Lake, and the **Silicon Valley Community Foundation** represented by **Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D.**, CEO and President. The Mayor presented certificates of honor to both honorees.

"We are thrilled to honor these Bay Area leaders who champion immigrant integration as essential to our nation's economic and cultural strength," said Upwardly Global President and CEO Nikki Cicerani.

Mr. Chen is an entrepreneur and distinguished leader in the technology sector who contributes expertise on a range of political and economic policy issues in the U.S., including international relations and immigration reform. Mr. Chen currently influences immigration reform as a Commissioner for the Bi-Partisan Policy Center—one of a select few business leaders enlisted to help lawmakers shape this debate.

"UpGlo's job seekers bring the skills and cultural knowledge that build the world economy and help the U.S. to regain its global strength. It is imperative that U.S. businesses access this global professional talent as it is key to our domestic and international success," Mr. Chen said.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation is leading the dialogue about the importance of immigrant integration in the United States. The community foundation addresses a critical gap in the Bay Area and throughout the U.S. by funding programs that serve a population often overlooked in the immigration debate—high-skilled but underemployed immigrants who could be contributing much more to their communities.

Widely regarded as an international thought leader in the field of philanthropy, Dr. Carson is a critical voice in the national dialogue on immigration reform. Accepting on behalf of the Foundation, Dr. Carson highlighted the diverse knowledge and expertise immigrants have to offer.

“Silicon Valley Community Foundation applauds UpGlo’s mission to ensure that immigrants achieve success in their professional fields in the United States. Equally important, we want U.S. businesses, schools, and communities to thrive with the diverse knowledge and expertise of our immigrant population,” Dr. Carson said.

The Gala also celebrated two UpGlo alumni: Gabriela Hernández Beltrán, originally from Mexico, and Patrick Kagema Kariuk, originally from Kenya. Ms. Beltrán was mopping floors in the financial district before UpGlo helped her secure a fulltime position as a Mapping Technician with the Alameda County Government. Mr. Kagema was unemployed for nearly a year before he came to UpGlo. A few months after he graduated from UpGlo’s program, he secured a fulltime position as RENEWS Manager at Musco Family Olive Co., a company whose award-winning “closed-loop system” uses olive pits and wastewater to produce clean water and electricity for the plant.

“Our alumni all exemplify the myriad ways our nation is enriched by the flow of new thinkers and innovators from all over the world,” said Anne Kirwan, Managing Director, Upwardly Global Bay Area. “Our celebration also acknowledges the efforts of our board, leadership council, employer partners, staff and UpGlo volunteers, who grow our organization’s reach and impact year after year.”

Doreen Woo Ho, President, San Francisco Port Commission and S. Shariq Yosufzai, Vice President, Global Diversity, Ombuds & University Affairs, Chevron served as co-chairs for the event.

### **About Upwardly Global**

Upwardly Global, founded in 2000, is a national, award-winning nonprofit organization with offices in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. Upwardly Global helps work-authorized, skilled immigrants rebuild their professional careers in the U.S. by providing professional job-search training and access to employers with global talent needs. To date, the organization has coached 4,900 skilled immigrants and has assisted over 1,750 professionals back into their career field. For more information about the organization, please visit [www.upwardlyglobal.org](http://www.upwardlyglobal.org).

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