

# NEWSLETTER

 **GLOBAL DETROIT**

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Partnership with College  
for Creative Studies (CCS)



Simon Forster  
Honored at Tapestry

## GLOBAL DETROIT FOUNDER IN TECH STARS DETROIT

Global EIR Graduate and founder Chening Duker of Good Pluck has been admitted as a part of the incoming class of Techstars Detroit, one of Michigan's most prestigious and competitive startup accelerator programs.

The tech-based accelerator program announced last week features a class of 12 early-stage companies, building on its record of 54 funded startups in the past five years. Good Pluck offers weekly sustainable -



Chening Duker  
Founder of Good Pluck

agriculture deliveries from Detroit farms, businesses, and vendors to consumers. Chening was a member of Global Detroit's initial Global Entrepreneur in Residence (Global EIR) pilot program at the University of Michigan that helped immigrant startup founders to connect with university positions and launch their startups in Southeast Michigan.

## Highlighting Global EIR Founders



Simon Forster at Tapestry

PassiveBolt founder was honored at this year's Tapestry event on October 13th 2022. Simon Forster is this year's Emerging Talent award recipient. He is currently a Global Detroit Global EIR founder. His company Passive Bolt is a smart lock technology company.

PassiveBolt's Shepherd Lock won the Consumer Technology Association's CES 2020 Innovation Award for Smart Keyless Entry System. The company was recently part of Endeavor Detroit's 2021 ScaleUp program.

Simon Forster, a native of Germany, is Wayne State's first Global EIR. Simon studied at the Cologne Business School (CBS), in Cologne, Germany and earned an MBA in International Management with a specialization in Entrepreneurship.

**PassiveBolt**

## Partnership with College for Creative Studies

We are excited to announce that Global Detroit Global EIR has entered into a new partnership with the College for Creative Studies.

Global EIR founders, Alfredo Jaldin and Miho Shoji, the founders of the startup MoodBit, began their partnership with CCS in March of 2022. Jaldin and Shoji have been working with students at the university, staff, and international students to provide insights into the world of starting, launching, and growing startups. This partnership enables the founders a unique visa pathway to work and launch their startup Moodbit, which uses real-time Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to build morale and increase productivity in the workplace through employee engagement. Founded in 2018, Moodbit serves more than 300 SMBs and Fortune 500 companies.

Miho and Alfredo are the first Global Entrepreneur in Residence (Global EIR) founders to enter a new partnership with the College of Creative Studies. They have been able to conduct industry research that can help expand the institution's base of industry partners. They will advise on outreach strategies for new companies that don't have a relationship with CCS and will assist in developing content to conduct classroom presentations on relevant industry or entrepreneurial topics that connect to their area of expertise.



Mood bit's founders Alfredo Jaldin and Miho Shoji



Highlighting Global Detroit Events

# Global Detroit Celebrates Tapestry



Global Detroit's Annual event was back in person this year and it was a festive evening celebrating Southeast Michigan's immigrant communities and their many contributions to our region!

Tapestry's return was hosted at The Jam Handy, one of Detroit's premier venues, with event decor from our partners at Aynaa Events and Decor. Catering was provided by the incredible chef Genevieve Vang and Bangkok 96, and this year's musical entertainment is Detroit's own Alina Morr with her band Urban Tropical!

Global Detroit Changemaker Awards honoring leaders in building a vibrant and prosperous region. This year's featured awardees were:

- **Global Detroit Champion:** Sophia Chue - Caribbean Community Service Center
- **Corporate Leadership:** Andy Johnston - Grand Rapids Chamber
- **Community Entrepreneur:** Nadia Nijimbere and Hamissi Mamba - Baobab Fare
- **Emerging Talent:** Simon Forster - PassiveBolt



## Global Detroit Pipeline founder unveils prototype



**David Medina Alvarez with Global EIR Program Manager Ernestine Lyons**

Global Detroit Entrepreneur in Residence Applicant David Medina Alvarez founder of Livaq presented a working model of his Electric ATV the Equaad on September 16th 2022.

## Highlighting Global Detroit Events



### Global EIR National Peer Network Convening in Boston

Global Detroit is now part of a vast network of Global EIR Programs. Executive Director Steve Tobocman and Global EIR National Program Manager Aijan Isakova hosted our inaugural National Peer Network Convening in Boston, Massachusetts September 21 - 23rd 2022.

Eight Global EIR programs or communities looking to build Global EIR programs gathered in Boston for the first in-person National Peer Network convening of Global EIR programs.

The Boston Global EIR National Peer Networking convening focused on the work of local Global EIR programs, including the details involved in securing university participation, recruiting and vetting potential founders, raising funding for the programs, supporting founders through their journey, including their successful exit from Global EIR programs, engaging alumni, as well as tracking and evaluating outcomes. We spent hours discussing how a National Peer Network could help local programs proliferate and help provide support in navigating these challenges

Pictured above from L-R, Becky Strauss (Federal City Council), Omar Cuevas (Grand Rapids Chamber), Tahmina Watson (Watson Immigration Law), Aijan Isakova (Global Detroit), Steve Tobocman (Global Detroit), Bryan Wright (Cincinnati Compass) and Supriya Tamang (Global Cleveland)



### [Click here for a link to the recording](#)

The Boston convening enabled these groups to discuss their individual successes, challenges and opportunities around the Global EIR program and to plan how a National Peer Network can help each organization. Groups felt a deeper connection and inspiration to pursue the work.



    **BLOG CONTACT**

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## Highlighting Global Detroit Events



Pictured from L to R: Supriya Tamang (Global Cleveland), Ernestine Lyons (Global Detroit), Bryan Wright (Cincinnati Compass), Fiona McEntee (McEntee Law), Manpreet Deji (counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary), Tahmina Watson (Watson Immigration Law), Steve Tobocman (Global Detroit), Craig Montuori (Global EIR)

Our peer network group met with federal legislative Branch officials including the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, House Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH). Our Global EIR advocates in attendance were representatives of Cincinnati Compass, Federal City Council, Global Cleveland, Global Detroit, and Immigration attorneys Tahmina Watson, and Fiona McPhee.

## GEIR National Network meets with DC Policy Makers

October 24th & 25th at Federal City Council offices. Washington, D.C. Global Detroit lead a gathering of national policy, research and advocacy organizations, congressional staff, and member of the Biden administration to discuss how local Global EIR efforts can support and promote a federal startup visa or other strategies that broaden opportunities for immigrant startup founders to launch their companies in the U.S.

While the Boston convening focused on the needs of local Global EIR programs (the core of our network activity and mission), the DC convening focused much more on advocating for a federal startup visa, as well as building national partnerships.



Federal Executive Branch officials including Amy Nice (pictured right) from the Biden Administration and Doug Rand (pictured left) of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Policy, research, and advocacy partners also attended. Including the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Brookings Institution, fwd.us, the American Immigration Council (AIC), Niskanen Center, the Economic Innovation Group, the Center for American Entrepreneurship, and the Institute for Progress. Potential DC-area partners for Global EIR included the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, and the VP for Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship at George Washington University.

## Highlighting Global Detroit Events

# Global Detroit Releases Data Showcasing Importance of International Students to Michigan's Workforce.



**Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist**

Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist joined leaders from the Detroit Regional Chamber, private industry and Digital Lakes to discuss Global Detroit's newest research chronicling the growing importance of international student talent to the state's economic competitiveness. The research report documents the exponential growth of international student talent in Michigan's economy over the past decade, chronicling a 330 percent growth rate in the annual number of international student graduates hired by Michigan employers.

"Attracting and retaining the talented students at our world-class universities is key to growing our economy, creating jobs, and building on Michigan's heritage of innovation," said Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. "Global Detroit's report highlighting international students' \$825+ million in annual contribution to Michigan's economy shows the importance of building on our budget investment in statewide global talent retention efforts. Governor Whitmer and I will work with anyone and compete with everyone to build prosperity for Michigan communities."

Global Detroit's study was based upon first-of-its-kind data obtained by the Pew Research Center tracking international students working in the U.S. under their student visas after graduation. Using Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, Pew assembled the records of over one million international students working in the U.S. from 2004-2016. Global Detroit's analysis of this data, combined with other public data sources, paints a vivid picture of the importance of international student retention.



"This is groundbreaking research that no other state has produced" said Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit's executive director. "The State of Michigan's recent appropriation of funds, combined with the region's recent \$52 million federal Economic Development Administration grant to build a global epicenter of mobility, will enable Global Detroit, regional chambers of commerce and economic development organizations across the state, industry groups and companies to build talent pipelines that clearly position our state as a global leader in talent attraction and retention."

["International Student Talent in the Michigan Workforce" Click here to read the report](#)





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