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**Exelon Chairman Emeritus John W. Rowe Keynote  
at JVS Chicago's 2017 Strictly Business Event:  
"Opening Pathways to the American Dream"**

*Chicago, Illinois – updated Jan 20, 2017* Former Exelon CEO John W. Rowe will be the keynote speaker at JVS Chicago's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Networking Event on February 22, 2017, examining the critical need for Chicago's leading executives to direct their leadership and acumen toward creating cohesive communities. Rowe's address, "Opening Pathways to the American Dream" will focus on the ways in which today's business leaders can impact their communities by transferring their significant skills to civic engagement. His presentation comes on the heels of the recent Executive Order issued by the Trump administration which prohibits immigrants from seven countries from entering the United States. In addition to being a legend in the energy production field known for his controversial stance on green energy initiatives, Rowe is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and co-chairman of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition.

"Now more than ever, corporate leaders need to build strong communities through civic engagement," says Rowe. "We have a moral imperative to make systems work for the largest number of people. I'm doing what little I can to help welcome people to the United States. It's not decent or conservative to prevent people from coming here to work, pay taxes and help our communities thrive."

Rowe recently signed an open letter to the Trump administration from The Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, exhorting the protection of 750,000 young people who now have work permits under Obama's deferred action program. A raft of other influential Chicago business leaders signed the letter, including Carole Browe Segal, co-founder of Crate and Barrel; Susan Crown, founder of a namesake social investment firm and member of the wealthy Crown family; Glenn Tilton, former CEO of United Airlines; Craig Duchossois, CEO of Duchossois Group; Frederick Waddell, CEO of Northern Trust; and Michael Sacks, CEO of Grosvenor Capital

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Management. The coalition believes that preserving the financial contributions made by illegal immigrants who pay taxes, purchase goods and services, buy homes, start or run businesses and fulfill jobs at every level is paramount to bolstering the nation's global economic strength.

"I think it's economic madness and personal viciousness to throw them away. I can't do it, won't do it," Rowe has said.

"Strictly Business 2017: Opening Pathways to the American Dream" will take place on February 22 at the historic Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, from 8:30-10 am (registration and networking breakfast begin at 8 am). A question-and-answer session will immediately follow Rowe's keynote address. Tickets are \$75. Space is limited, registration is highly recommended. Register online: [https://jcfs.formstack.com/forms/2017\\_strictly\\_business](https://jcfs.formstack.com/forms/2017_strictly_business) or by phone at 312.673.3403.

JVS Chicago serves more than 8,000 employees, employers and entrepreneurs annually with programs for adults, youth, seniors and people with disabilities, serving entry-level to advanced career job seekers, at locations across Metropolitan Chicago. For more information, call 855.463.6587 (855.INFO.JVS) or visit [jvschicago.org](http://jvschicago.org)

JVS Chicago is administered through an alliance agreement by Jewish Child & Family Services, a partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

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