

Supporting the Successful Integration of Immigrants through Education & Collaboration

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The New American Reality



Westchester Community College

- Hispanic Serving Institution @ 35% Hispanic
- 25% of student body is foreign born
- 5,000 enrollments in our English Language Institute annually
- 2010 opened the Gateway Center – a multiuse facility housing programs and services for our immigrant community along side certificate and degree programs
 - Welcome Center
 - International and Immigrant Student Services
 - English Language Institute
 - Entrepreneurship and Financial Capability programs
 - Citizenship Preparation
 - Services for Foreign Educated Immigrants
 - ESL/Skills Training
 - Host and lead college for CCCIE





What is CCCIE?

A national network of community colleges and other organizations committed to supporting immigrant education through their innovative programs and services.

CCCIE's Mission:

CCCIE builds the capacity of community colleges to accelerate immigrant and refugee success and raises awareness of the essential role these colleges play in advancing immigrant integration through education.

Guiding Principles:

- Equity with Excellence
- Recognition of Immigrants as Assets
- Commitment to Partnership
- Completion Based upon Intent
- Accountability

What do the numbers tell us?

At the national level:

- ✓ Immigrants & their children will account for almost all labor force growth over next 15 yrs.

by 2030, nearly 1 in 5 U.S. workers will be an immigrant



- ✓ English Language Learners (ELLs) are the fastest growing student population in the K-12 system

What do the numbers tell us?

At the PA state level:

Size and Growth of Pennsylvania's Immigrant Population

- From 2000 to 2015, the immigrant population grew by 65% from 2000 (508,291) to 2015 (837,159), representing 6.5% of PA's population in 2015.
- PA ranks 13th nationally in the size of its immigrant population.

Place of Origin

- The top three countries of birth of the foreign born : India, China, and Mexico. (2015)

Race and Latino Origin

- Over one third (36%) of the foreign-born population is Asian, 13% are black or African American, and 40% are white. (2015)
- 22% of immigrants in PA reported Latino origin.

Source -U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015, Migration Policy Institute Data Hub

What do the numbers tell us?

In metro Philadelphia:

Over 600,000 immigrants

10% of the population

Over 40,000 immigrant entrepreneurs



The Top 4 Regions of Origin Are:

- Asia
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Europe
- Africa



Source: PEW State of the City, Partnership for a New American Economy

Courtesy of Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

Diversity of the immigrant student population



- Traditional age entering from high school
- Generation 1.5 students
- Nontraditional adult learners
- Dreamers/DACA youth (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- Foreign-educated skilled students, professionals
- Different ethnicities, cultures, languages, socio-economic status
- Different skill levels

Challenges immigrant students face



- Difficulty gaining access to higher education
- Financial constraints
- Limited English proficiency
- Limited formal education
- Differences in culture/ expectations
- Family/work responsibilities
- Lack of recognition of credentials, experience and education from their home countries
- Minimal access to career pathways from ESL to job skills/academics to employment
- Issues of documentation for approx. 30% of immigrants

What's at stake?

Vitor Granja

- 2008 – Immigrates to NY from Brazil with no knowledge of English
- 2009 – Enrolls in the English Language Institute at WCC
- 2013 – A.S., WCC
- 2015 – B.S., New York University
- Today – Employed as a Financial Analyst, NYU Langone Medical Center



What do the numbers tell us?

At the local level: Philadelphia metro area

Educational attainment among immigrants 25 years and older

Between 2011-2015, of the 520,950 immigrants 25 years and over in the Philadelphia metro area:

- 21% had less than a high school degree
- 23% had high school degree (includes equivalency)
- 17% had some college or associate's degree
- 39% had bachelor's degree or higher

Steps to Success: Integrating Immigrant Professionals in the U.S.



- First-of-its-kind study by IMPRINT & WES documents multiple factors correlating with successful integration of immigrant professionals.
- Based on experiences of over 4,000 college-educated immigrants in 6 U.S. cities: Boston, Detroit, Miami, Philadelphia, San Jose, and Seattle

Key findings include:

- Social capital is powerful
- English really matters
- Immigrants take enterprising approaches to self improvement

www.imprintproject.org/steps

Steps to Success: Philadelphia Findings

The majority of Philadelphia's college-educated immigrants:

- Lived in the US for at 6 years or more (75%)
- Applied for credential evaluation (73%)
- Speak English "very well" (67%)
- Pursued additional higher education in the US (66%)

In addition, they are civically engaged in their communities and more likely to have volunteered in the past year for a religious organization, neighborhood, civic group, when compared to the average across all areas.

What are the Opportunities for Colleges & Community Partners?



- Increase access, enrollments and completion
- Foster a diverse community of learners
- Create pathways between community colleges and universities
- Collaborate with school districts to provide seamless transitions to college/careers
- Enhance community partnerships
- Engage employers to create meaningful job opportunities
- Improve economic and social vitality
- Expand funding opportunities



What are the challenges?

- Creating a safe and supportive environment for all immigrant students
- Providing training for all employees
- Integrating the immigrant experience into the whole curriculum
- Improving outcomes of LEP students and accelerating their transition to degree completion/training programs
- Sustaining and replicating successful programs

What we know from research and experience



ccc Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education May 2016

10 THINGS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATORS CAN DO TO SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH THROUGH DACA

Colleges can take several steps to ensure educational access and success for undocumented students, including those who may qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The program stops deportation and grants temporary relief to certain undocumented students who came to the US as children and have since been born in the US. Individuals who qualify under DACA will be allowed to enroll in higher education without federal financial aid authorization.

This report provides a toolkit of resources and recommendations for community college educators, including campaigns and prepare staff to provide clear and consistent information to students. We hope the following strategies will be helpful in your efforts to support immigrant youth.

For more information on 'Citizenship and Immigration Services' (www.uscis.gov) and [resources](#).

Community college admissions, registrar, financial aid, counseling, etc.) so that they can support students in their requests for transcripts and other documents. The U.S. Department of Education's comprehensive [resource guide](#) for community college leaders, and community groups better support undocumented students.

For more information about undocumented individuals to the campus and build support for access to higher education. View the [resources](#) created by Educators for Fair Consideration (<http://edfc.org>), and [updated interactive scholarship resources](#) to help undocumented students at your college.

Full reports available at:
www.cccie.org

Presidents Pledge for New American Success

1. Executive-level commitment
2. Development of college teams dedicated to New American success
3. Data driven strategies
4. Meaningful, multi-sector partnerships
5. Emphasis on program replication and best practice sharing

“Now more than ever we need to enlist other leading community colleges in our cause to support a multicultural and diverse student body that is vital for the economic, social, and cultural vibrancy of our communities and our country as well.”

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President,
Westchester Community College



Executive level commitment & follow through drives successful outcomes

"As always, our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion are unwavering. Our founding principles and support for undocumented students, restated by the SUNY Board of Trustees at its meeting last week, continue to guide our actions as we review and react to new federal mandates with regard to immigration." Dr. Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York



"Immigration strengthens the fabric of this nation and our University. Immigrants spark innovation, launch new businesses, and enrich our culture and arts. They are a precious national resource and invaluable to Penn."

President Amy Guttman, University of Pennsylvania

Development of college teams dedicated to New American success



Data Driven Strategies

A focus on evaluation and sharing data supports improvement and expansion of immigrant education programs.



- Sample Measures of Progress
- Enrollment of immigrant students
- Financial Aid
- Development Education placement and enrollments
- Developmental Education Completion
- Persistence
- Credit accumulation
- Graduation rates (3, 4 and 6 year)
- Degrees and certificates awarded
- Transfer rates
- Pre- and Post Wages

Meaningful, multi-sector partnerships

Stakeholders including:

- K-12 schools
- Community colleges and universities
- Adult Education systems
- Community and faith based organizations
- Employers
- Workforce
- Government agencies
- Immigrants



Emphasis on program replication and best practice sharing



How can you...

- Solicit the broadest support for immigrant student success within your institutions?
- Develop an immigrant education strategy?
- Build a community of supporters and an environment conducive to immigrant success?
- Work together to create academic and career pathways for immigrant students?
- Empower immigrant students as leaders?
- Change the immigrant narrative?

What is your organization's next step?



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