



April 2017

## Immigrant Student Success Is Critical to College Completion and US Competitiveness

Increasing college and credential completion among the fast-growing immigrant population is critical to improving overall community college completion rates and maintaining a strong competitive workforce in the U.S. Yet, many immigrants, especially those in low-income communities, lack the basic literacy and English language skills to succeed in college and build careers. Other foreign-educated, skilled immigrants in the U.S. are unemployed or languish in low-wage jobs because their foreign credentials and experience are not recognized.

Community colleges are ideally positioned to be change agents in boosting educational and career opportunities for immigrants, but they face significant challenges in addressing the needs of a diverse immigrant population. Against this backdrop, the need to transform immigrant student success in community colleges is clear.



### CCCIE Mission and Vision

**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 in our communities.

**Vision:** New Americans have full access to higher education and success in community colleges across the nation and are provided the resources to attain their educational, career, and personal goals; thus supporting high and rising wages and living standards for all Americans while strengthening U.S. competitiveness in the global economy.

CCCIE's strategic partnerships both within and outside the community college sector provide a strong foundation for our success. As thought leaders, researchers, advocates, and technical experts, we have made significant progress in raising the visibility of immigrant education issues on



the national agenda and establishing ourselves among influential partners and stakeholders in the immigrant integration, adult education, and workforce development fields.

We invite you to look at CCCIE's work and our strategic priorities ...

## CCCIE Initiatives

### Conducting Action-Based Research and Exchange of Promising Practices

#### *National Survey on Increasing Opportunities for New Americans at Community Colleges*

As part of a yearlong strategic planning process, CCCIE's 2015 [national survey](#) has shed new light and further understanding of colleges' capacity for supporting immigrant students, including strongest areas of investment versus clear gaps in services.

#### *Bridging the Gap for Foreign-Educated Immigrants: A New Online Resource*

CCCIE partnered with WES Global Talent Bridge to develop this new [online toolkit](#) that community college and CBO practitioners can use to integrate foreign-educated students into college programs and careers. It includes best practices, success stories, videos, checklists, and other interactive tools.

### Providing Technical Assistance to Community Colleges and Other Key Stakeholders

#### *Skills and Opportunity for the New American Workforce*

In 2016, the National Immigration Forum launched Skills and Opportunity for the New American Workforce, in partnership with CCCIE and Miami Dade College. This groundbreaking initiative supports the integration of limited English proficient retail employees into the company's workforce, with the overarching goal of improving worker upward mobility. This project, funded by the Walmart Foundation and now in its second year, is delivering a contextualized [English language-learning program](#) in partnership with community colleges in three cities: Miami, New York, and Houston.



#### *CCCIE Partnerships in Conference Planning*

CCCIE integrates its expertise and work on immigrant education issues into other national initiatives focused on workforce development, adult education, college completion, and immigrant integration. CCCIE has collaborated with the National Council for Workforce Education to bring immigrant-focused presentations at NCWE's annual conference and has helped shape the agenda and increase community college participation at the National Immigrant Integration Conference, the largest national conference bringing together immigrant integration advocates and policymakers from across the country.

### Expanding Advocacy and Policy Reach

#### *Recommendations to Policymakers*

CCCIE submitted [recommendations](#) and [best practices](#) to the White House Task Force on New Americans on a range of programs and resources for strengthening community colleges' capacity to serve low-skilled adult ESL learners, refugees, undocumented and DACA-mented students, and skilled immigrants. We continue to advocate for our diverse immigrant populations through participation in the National Skills Coalition's Washington, D.C. Summits and congressional visits.

#### *Participation in IMPRINT*

CCCIE is a founding member and serves on the steering committee of [IMPRINT](#), a national coalition of organizations that works closely with business, government, higher education and other

partners to raise awareness about the talents and contributions of immigrant professionals and influence policy issues relating to professional immigrant integration.

### *Networks for Integrating New Americans*

CCCIE serves as technical advisor and subject matter expert for this [national initiative](#), funded by the US Department of Education's Office for Career, Technical, and Adult Education and focused on improving immigrants' access to effective English language programs, paths to citizenship, and career development.

## Strategic Priorities

At a time when community colleges are dealing with diminishing resources at all levels, CCCIE can play a critical role to help community colleges build capacity and address the completion agenda through improved immigrant student outcomes. Our efforts focus on assisting college presidents and their leadership teams to strengthen and expand their existing resources, and develop targeted services to accelerate academic and career success of immigrant and refugee students. Our priorities include:

*Leveraging Our Community College Survey:* CCCIE's national survey elicited responses from 160 community college representatives in 33 states, that taken together, account for well over 80% of the nation's foreign-born residents. Through the dissemination of key findings and model programs, CCCIE helps colleges identify steps to advance immigrant education and benchmark their capacity to serve immigrant students against the survey results.

*Enhancing Use of Data to Track Immigrant Student Success:* Three-quarters of survey respondents said they lack adequate capacity to track immigrant student success through better data collection. CCCIE launched a Data Metrics Working Group drawn from its Blue Ribbon Panel member colleges that are developing standardized definitions, key indicators, and best practices to help colleges create a data-driven culture to advance immigrant student success.

*Disseminating Toolkits for Educators and Students:* CCCIE's and WES Global Talent Bridge's dissemination of our online toolkit helps community college practitioners and their CBO partners advise foreign-educated students on how to navigate educational and career pathways at their colleges and in their communities. Work is also underway on an *Immigrant Student Guide*, which will equip students with information they need to become their own advocates as they choose their path to success.

*Expanding Our Network:* CCCIE has launched a *College Presidents Campaign* to expand its reach and engage additional community college presidents across the country in CCCIE's mission. Through our [Presidents Pledge for New American Success](#), we are securing the commitment of college presidents to support specific initiatives that advance immigrant student success.

*Building Communities of Practice:* Our call to action is to form teams or communities of practice comprising cross-functional community college and cross-sector stakeholders to organize for action—taking best practices and key learnings from ideas to implementation and transforming the immigrant-serving community college sector to produce better outcomes.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Visit [www.cccie.org](http://www.cccie.org).

## **BLUE RIBBON PANEL MEMBERS**

CCCIE's work is guided by a Blue Ribbon Panel of community college leaders and experts in the field of immigrant education. Current BRP members represent over 50 colleges serving an estimated 1.2 million students. Students with an immigrant background represent approximately 25% of the student population at community colleges. Our BRP memberships extend our national reach and strengthen the movement toward immigrant student success. Current BRP members include:

American Association of Community Colleges, D.C  
Alamo Community College District, TX  
ALLIES (Alliance for Language Learners' Integration, Education and Success), CA  
Bluegrass Community and Technical College, KY  
Bunker Hill Community College, MA  
City Colleges of Chicago, IL  
City College of San Francisco, CA  
Johnson County Community College, KS  
Highline College, WA  
LaGuardia Community College, NY  
Literacywork International, NM  
Miami Dade College, FL  
Migration Policy Institute, D.C.  
Montgomery College, MD  
National Community College Hispanic Council, CA  
Northern Virginia Community College, VA  
Palm Beach State College, FL  
Pima Community College, AZ  
Rio Hondo College, CA  
South Texas College, TX  
Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, WA  
Westchester Community College, NY  
World Education Services, NY

The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education is a national network of community colleges and other organizations committed to supporting immigrant education and integration through colleges' innovative programs and services. Our thanks to the J.M. Kaplan Fund, which has provided CCCIE with its major financial support since its founding in 2008, and to the Kresge Foundation, which supported the development of CCCIE's Strategic Plan. CCCIE is hosted and led by Westchester Community College in Valhalla, New York. Please explore our website at [www.cccie.org](http://www.cccie.org) and subscribe to our mailing list to receive our E-alerts and resources.

Teresita Wisell, CCCIE Executive Director  
Tere.Wisell@sunywcc.edu  
Vice President and Dean, Workforce Development and Community Education  
Westchester Community College

Jill Casner-Lotto, CCCIE Director  
Jill.Casnerlotto@sunywcc.edu