

# Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

*Building the capacity of colleges and universities to support resettlement.*

## Campus Engagement in Refugee Resettlement: Perspectives from the SHERR Program



**Holly Herrera** is the Section Chief for Domestic Resettlement at the Office of Admissions at US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). She began in this role in August 2021 at the beginning of Operation Allies Welcome. Prior to this, she was a Domestic Resettlement Program Officer. Holly has spent many years at the Federal and nonprofit level working in the refugee and immigrant field, including ten years at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, a national refugee resettlement agency. At USCCB, Holly developed programs and resources for the resettlement network, and conducted program monitoring and evaluation in the field. Following USCCB, Holly was the Federal Project Officer for the Survivors of Torture Program at ORR. Holly received her MBA in nonprofit management from George Mason University.



**Dr. Miriam Feldblum** is co-founder and executive director of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. A national expert on the intersection of immigration and higher education, Miriam has written extensively and delivered presentations on undocumented, international, and refugee students, immigration policy and higher education, and highly skilled labor in the United States. She is a non-resident fellow at the Migration Policy Institute and author of *Reconstructing Citizenship: The Politics of Nationality Reform and Immigration in Contemporary France*. Miriam previously served as vice president for student affairs, dean of students, and professor of politics at Pomona College, as special assistant to the president, faculty research associate, and senior director at the California Institute of Technology, and as an assistant professor at the University of San Francisco. She received a BA in political science from Barnard College, and MA, MPhil, and PhD degrees in political science from Yale University.



**Manal Sidi** is the Program Manager supporting the Welcome Campus Network (WCN), a space to amplify the work of higher education institutions (HEI) to welcome and support newcomers. Manal represents Welcome.US in the SHERR Consortium, which utilizes the infrastructure of WCN to grow and deepen HEI engagement. Manal's background is in community participatory research and evaluation, specifically engaging and collaborating with refugee and immigrant community members. She holds an MPH from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Her drive stems from her personal experience resettling from Somalia and her interest is to elevate the experience of newcomers in this work.

*Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.*

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**Mariam Iskajyan** is the SHERR Program Coordinator at ECDC, one of the ten national refugee resettlement agencies in the United States. Mariam previously led the U.S. refugee resettlement and asylum portfolio at the Win Without War Education Fund and implemented university partnerships and local service-delivery programs for refugees, immigrants, and displaced Indigenous communities at the California-based Tiyya Foundation. She has led national advocacy working groups on Temporary Protected Status for Yemen, Venezuela, and Syria and coordinated field delegations assisting displaced populations at the U.S.-Mexico and Venezuela-Colombia borders, and in the South Caucasus. She holds an MSc in Social Policy from the London School of Economics, an MSc in Migration, Mobility, and Development from SOAS University of London, and BAs in Political Science and International Studies from the University of California, Irvine.



**John Sunnygard** is Associate Provost for Global Learning and International Affairs (SIO) at Western Kentucky University (WKU) where he leads WKU's international strategic engagement. John and WKU Global are responsible for WKU's Global Learning Admissions and Recruitment, international partnership implementation, Global Learning Advising and Student Services, study abroad, International Pathway to Academic Success, international travel risk management, and the Resilient Refugee Program. WKU recently completed a US Department of State "IDEAS" grant to diversify study abroad through innovative "C2C: Counties to Countries" study abroad programming for students from rural areas. WKU Global has implemented comprehensive programs to support, integrate and foster belonging for forced migrants studying at WKU. John has developed innovative programming in numerous countries and disciplines including allied health sciences, business, languages, engineering, humanities, and social sciences. He led an award-winning international risk management program at the University of Colorado Denver. A frequent speaker on international education, John has consulted for universities, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and governments.



**Matt Brown** is the Program Manager for SHERR, a consortium of four organizations led by World Learning. He has worked for World Learning for 25 years and is currently based in the Washington, DC area. He designs and manages diverse programs that build the technical and leadership capacities of individuals, universities, and other types of organizations to achieve their goals, using tools such as professional training, international exchanges, study tours, grants, and university linkages. Matt has focused recently on programs that support countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe, Pakistan, and Malawi. For 12 years, he served as World Learning's resident director in several Balkan countries. Matt began his career as an ESL teacher and teacher trainer. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Pakistan and Bulgaria. He has substantial experience serving on nonprofit boards and facilitates occasional anti-racism workshops. Matt holds a master's degree in international and intercultural management and administration from World Learning' SIT Graduate School, and an executive certificate in nonprofit management from Georgetown.

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