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

OCTOBER 4, 2023

*This session is being recorded. The recording will be available in the IDEAS Library of Resources.
Speaking Today:

- **Moderator: Matt Brown**, SHERR Program Manager and Director, Global Programs, World Learning

- **Holly Herrera**, Section Chief, Domestic Resettlement, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

- **Miriam Feldblum**, Executive Director, Presidents’ Alliance for Higher Education and Immigration (SHERR)

- **Manal Sidi**, Program Manager, Welcome.US/Welcome Campus Network (SHERR)

- **Mariam Iskajyan**, SHERR Program Coordinator, Ethiopian Community Development Council (SHERR)

- **John Sunnygard**, Associate Provost, Global Learning and International Affairs, Western Kentucky University (IDEAS Grantee)

A special thanks to our webinar host, the IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program. The IDEAS Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.
Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

Perspectives from U.S. Department of State:
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

Holly Herrera
Section Chief, Domestic Resettlement
U.S. Department of State:
  - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

Presidential Determination in FY 2024: 125,000 refugees

Number of refugees admitted in FY 2023
National Resettlement Agencies
The capacity challenge
Specialized projects that meet the needs of refugees and partner capacity needs

Reception and Placement Resettlement Agencies

**BCS:** Bethany Christian Services
**CWS:** Church World Service
**ECDC:** Ethiopian Community Development Council
**EMM:** Episcopal Migration Ministries
**HIAS**
**IRC:** International Rescue Committee
**LIRS:** Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
**USCCB:** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
**USCRI:** U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
**WR:** World Relief
Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

Perspectives from SHERR Consortium Lead:
World Learning

Matt Brown
SHERR Program Manager
Director, Global Programs
Purpose: **Build the capacity of colleges and universities to support refugee resettlement**

- Expand the Welcome Campus Network (schools committed to engagement in resettlement)
- Support pathways of engagement with:
  - Communities of practice
  - Incentive grants
  - Webinars, trainings, etc.

- Student and non-student refugees
- 3-year program
- Consortium, 4 organizations
- Promote partnership with resettlement agencies
- Others in this space
SHERR Needs Assessment Survey (July 2023)

- 97 schools, 41 states
- 46 schools: “Little/no experience” with resettlement
- 51 schools: “Some experience” with resettlement, including:
  - 11 community colleges
  - 18 minority-serving institutions
  - Urban, suburban, rural Settings
- 42 schools have collaborated externally, including with Resettlement Agencies
Types of Refugee Engagement Among Higher Education Institutions with Experience

- Direct enrollment: 88%
- ELL support: 72%
- Employed non-student refugees: 52%
- Cultural orientation: 50%
- Refugee related research/evaluation: 50%
- Housing for non-student refugees: 29%
- Vocational education/training: 16%
Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

**SHERR**

**TENTATIVE**

**PRIORITY**

**ENGAGEMENT PATHWAYS**

**INITIAL**

- English Language Learning and Career Support
- Service Learning/Volunteer Engagement
- Housing
- Refugee Educational Opportunities

**FUTURE**

- Access to Vocational Technical Training
- HEIs as Employers of Refugees
- Evaluation and Research

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

*Funded by the World Learning Education Development Institute (ELI)*

*PRESIDENTS' ALLIANCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION*

*Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983*

*Welcome.US*
Perspectives from SHERR Consortium Member:
Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration

Dr. Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director
### CURRENT PATHWAYS AND BARRIERS FOR REFUGEES FROM ABROAD

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<tr>
<th>PATHWAYS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>KEY BARRIERS</th>
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| P1-P3 Categories | Refugees are admitted to the U.S. through existing refugee definitions, vulnerability-based resettlement and criteria | • Less than 1% of refugees worldwide are resettled  
• No immediate pathway to education |
| F-1 Visas       | The main type of Student visa in the U.S. and current avenue for refugees to enter the U.S. as students | • Need to show financial support for the length of the program  
• Not a durable solution for protection  
• Limited access to PR & work authorization |
| Humanitarian Parole | A temporary and discretionary authorization to enter the U.S. for citizens from certain countries | • Requires a vetted U.S.-based supporter  
• Limited to two years and no path to PR  
• No immediate pathway to education |

### CURRENT BARRIERS FOR REFUGEES OR DISPLACED IN THE US

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| Resettled Refugees & Asylees | Refugees resettled in the U.S. through existing refugee definitions, vulnerability-based resettlement and criteria | • Focus is on achieving economic self-sufficiency as soon as possible  
• No immediate pathway to education |
| Asylum seekers              | Applied for asylum upon arrival in the U.S. and still awaiting approval     | • No access to federal financial aid, excluded or limited access to in-state tuition  
• No immediate pathway to education |
| TPS & DED                   | A temporary humanitarian protection that provide work permits and protection from deportation for certain noncitizens | • No access to federal financial aid, excluded or limited access to in-state tuition  
• No immediate pathway to education |
Resources and partnerships to support U.S. Colleges and Universities

- **Staff Training** (ECAR, NASH, PAHEI, WCC)
- **Student Org. Coordination** (NASH RRI)
- **Resources** (HigherEd Portal, NASH RRI, Welcome Campus Network - supported by Welcome.Us and SHERR, ECAR...)
- **Networking** (WCN- Welcome.Us & SHERR, NASH)

- **State level** (PAHEI, NASH RRI, WES)
- **Federal level** (PAHEI, NASH RRI, WES)

- **Curricula/Pedagogy** (ECAR, NASH RRI)
- **Program Research and Evaluations** (IIE, SHERR, WCC)

- **Policy & Advocacy**
- **Building Inclusive Campuses**

- **Student Enrollment Support**
  - **Intl/refugee Students** (PAHEI)
  - **Community Colleges** (PAHEI)
  - **Private Sponsorship** (WCC)
  - **Scholarship Coordination & Student Placement** (IIE, WCC)
  - **Inclusive Admissions Processes** (PAHEI, WES)

- **Direct Services for Refugees**
  - **Housing** (ECAR, SHERR)
  - **Service Learning** (ECAR, SHERR, WCC)
  - **Core Services/ Co-sponsorship** (ECAR)
  - **Private Sponsorship** (WCC)

- **Funding**
  - **Innovation Grants** (NASH RRI, SHERR)
  - **Public Funding** (NASH RRI, IIE)
  - **Private Funding** (IIE, ECAR)

- **Research**
Federal and state policies impacting immigrant, refugee, and international students
Immigrant and international student enrollment data
Economic contributions
Communities of Practice
Resources and effective practices
Student and alumni stories
Tools, directories, one-stop hubs

Higher Ed Immigration Portal
https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/
Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

Perspectives from SHERR Consortium Member: Welcome.US, Welcome Campus Network

Manal Sidi
Program Manager

Welcome.US
Welcome.US

Welcome Campus Network

- Members meet twice a month and discuss information and best practices. Past meetings have focused on:
  - Current developments in U.S. refugee and asylum policy presented by RCUSA coalition
  - How to become involved in Welcoming Week presented by Welcoming America
  - Learning more about Refugee Resettlement Academy presented by Hekmatullah Latifi, Assistant Director of Refugee Resettlement Academy at USCCB

- If interested in joining, or for more information, please email: manal@welcome.us
WELCOME CAMPUS NETWORK

Through the Welcome Campus Network, Welcome.US amplifies the work of higher education institutions in welcoming and supporting newcomers seeking safety from across the globe, which includes providing scholarships, housing units, community sponsorship, and pathways to education to thousands of refugees and their families, as well as other acts of welcome.
Perspectives from SHERR Consortium Member:
Ethiopian Community Development Council

Mariam Iskajyan
Program Coordinator, SHERR
ECDC was founded in 1983 and is committed to empowering a network of organizations founded and/or led by former refugees and immigrants.

ECDC has been a national resettlement agency (RA) since 1991, having resettled over 76,200 individuals from across the world.

ECDC serves as a bridge between SHERR and the nine other national RAs and 300+ local affiliates across the United States.
Partnerships between colleges/universities and RAs:
  - help build the capacity, diversity, and resiliency of the resettlement community
  - facilitate successful outcomes for refugees

Example: Ready for American Hospitality (RAH) is a collaborative training program between the University of Denver (DU) and ECDC’s African Community Center (ACC) in Denver
Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement

Perspectives from Western Kentucky University:

John Sunnygard
Associate Provost
Global Learning and International Affairs
Our Community: Bowling Green; Refugees; Local Support Services
2021 IDEAS Grant – C2C – Counties to Countries

- Explore Senegal
- Coffee, Chocolate, and Sustainability – Costa Rica
- Mystic Landscapes of the Emerald Island - Ireland
It started with a tornado – WKU and Resilient Refugee Program

- KISPP – Kentucky Innovative Scholarship Program
- Consolidate refugee support in WKU Global unit
- IPAS – International Pathway to Academic Success
It’s What You’ve Got: Challenges and Lessons

- Refugees not international students
- Financial aid
- Campus cultural awareness
Global Learning for all! Integrating student learning into our refugee support work

- Peer-to-peer navigators
- Certificates in Forced Migration Studies
- Refugee Health Seminar
Support at the Intersection of Higher Education and Refugee Resettlement

1. Every Campus A Refuge
2. National Association of System Heads-Refugee Resettlement Initiative (NASH/RRI)
3. Higher Ed Immigration Portal, Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
4. Qatar Scholarship for Afghan Project (QSAP/IIE)
5. Welcome Campus Network (Welcome.US)
6. Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange (CORE, IRC)
7. Switchboard (IRC)
8. Refugee Welcome Collective (CWS)
9. Refugee Housing Solutions (CWS)
10. Welcome Corps on Campus
11. Supporting Higher Education in Refugee Resettlement (SHERR)
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### Stay in touch with the IDEAS Program!

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THANK YOU!

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