

Community Colleges as Leaders in Immigrant Education

Continuing Education Association of
New York

Annual Conference – November 2008

Presenters:

- Teresita Wisell, Director
Community College Consortium
for Immigrant Education
- David Bernstein, Assistant Dean
English as a Second Language



Today's Session

- Who are immigrants in the United States?
- Who are our community college immigrant students?
- Why do they come to community colleges for education and training?
- CE and Immigrant Education: A Great Fit.
- Some Best Practices to share and discuss
- The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education
- Questions & Answers

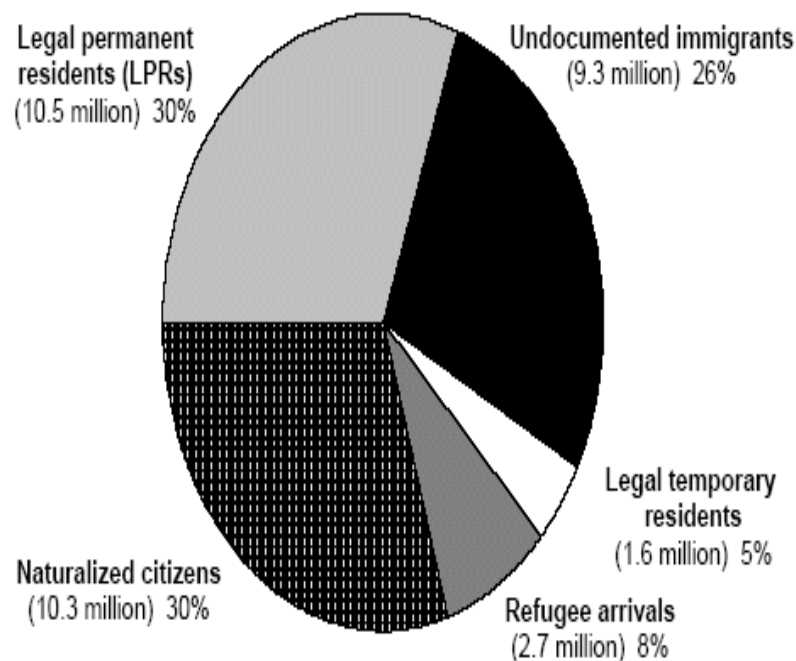
Who are today's immigrants?

- Today's working *definition* – All those who are born outside the U.S. and who have come here to settle permanently, regardless of status.
- In 2007, the U.S. foreign born population rose to 38.1 million; 12.6% of the total US population.
- Between 2005 and 2050 the US population is projected to expand by 48%; immigrants representing 82% of that growth
- Assuming immigration levels remain constant, 1 out of 5 residents will be foreign born.
- These immigrants are essential to helping the US maintain a stable economy

Foreign Born Population in U.S.

- 30% Legal permanent residents
- 30% Naturalized Citizens
- 26% Undocumented
- 8% Refugee arrivals
- 5% Legal temporary residents

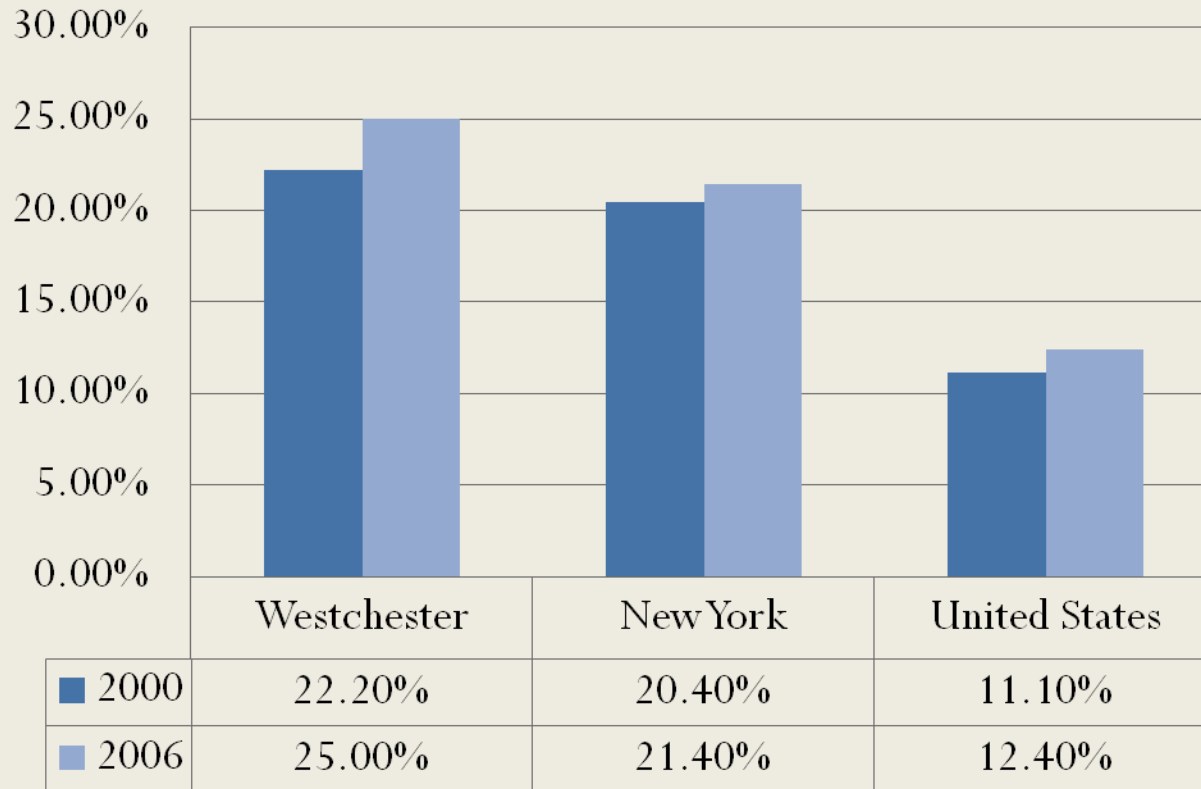
FIGURE 1. LEGAL STATUS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 2002



34.5 Million Foreign-Born

SOURCE: Urban Institute estimates based on March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Foreign Born Population in New York



Who are community college immigrant students?

- Community colleges enroll almost half of all U.S. undergrads
- 24% come from an immigrant background
- In addition to credit students, 5 million others take non-credit classes
 - Basic skills & computer skills
 - ESL
 - Self- improvement
 - Job training and vocational certification
- They attend part-time, work full-time; juggle family, work and education

Why do they come to community colleges for education and training?

- Flexible open door admissions policies
- Affordable cost of tuition
- English as a second language
- Basic Skills
- Workforce training
- Eligible for institutional scholarships
- Practical Majors
- Accessible locations and scheduling
- Academic support
- Smaller classes
- Diversity – sense of belonging
- Strong referral system in the community

CE & Immigrant Education: A Great Fit

We are focused on:

- Adult, life-long learning
- Collaboration with the community
- An Entrepreneurial, flexible approach
- Work force training
- Quick responsiveness to the needs of our constituencies

Continuing Education provides:

A range of programs, for example:

- English as a Second Language
 - Credit and non-credit
 - Beginning to Advanced
 - Contextualized ESL; workplace ESL
 - In combination with CBOs on flexible schedules
- Civics Education
- Family Literacy
- Credentialing of Education outside the US

ESL Partnerships with the community

Public Libraries: White Plains Public Library
 New Rochelle Public Library

Beginner-level ESL courses

Community Organizations:

Neighbors Link, Mount Kisco – Day Laborer ESL

Jacob Burns Film Center – Digital Storytelling

Workplace Language Training

Types of Employees:

Engineers/Managers

International Business

Portfolio Managers

Hospitality; Food Services

Supermarket Employees

Hospitality; Food Services

Factory Workers (Stampings)

Research Engineers (Biopharmaceutical)

Supermarket Employees

Hospitality; Food Services

Manufacturing (Firearms)

Gaming

“Community colleges are the obvious staging grounds for trying to close many of the gaps in American life...They can close the gap between the immigrant promise and the immigrant experience by integrating new Americans into our national life.”

Dr. Mary Fifield, President

Bunker Hill Community College

March 20, 2006 to the

Secretary's Commission on Future of Higher Education



Who are we?

CCCIE is composed of representatives from community colleges that demonstrate a commitment to immigrant education through their innovative programming and services for immigrants.

Representatives from community college associations, experts in TESOL and researchers of immigrant education issues are also members of CCCIE.



CCCIE recognizes that providing effective education for immigrants is crucial, not only to ensure immigrants' personal success in America, but to promote social vibrancy and economic growth locally, regionally and nationally.

Our **mission** is *to raise awareness of the important role community colleges play in delivering educational opportunities to immigrants, and to promote and expand the range and quality of programs for immigrant students among community colleges around the country.*



Objectives

- Raise the visibility of the importance of immigrant education among the nation's 1200 community colleges and related professional organizations.
- Strengthen relationships with key community college professional associations to increase awareness of the immigrant education issue and resources available to association members.
- Establish a new vehicle through which community colleges can share best practices, technical expertise and ideas to meet the educational needs of immigrants.

For more information please contact:

Teresita Wisell, Director, CCCIE

Westchester Community College

Tere.wisell@sunywcc.edu 914-606-7866

OR

David Bernstein, Assistant Dean, English as a Second Language

Westchester Community College

David.bernstein@sunywcc.edu 914-606-6651

Q&A

