



Highlights of CCCIE's Work in 2019

Building a Contextualized English Language Training Program for the Retail Industry

CCCIE is a national partner in the *Skills and Opportunity for the New American Workforce* initiative, launched by the National Immigration Forum in 2016, in collaboration with CCCIE and Miami Dade College. The partners have developed a contextualized English-language training program for immigrant employees in the retail industry, with support from the Walmart Foundation. This unique collaboration has created a first-of-its-kind scalable, sector-wide contextualized English-language-learning program utilizing online and in-person training methods, with the goal of helping retailers build stronger career pathways for their employees and increase worksite productivity.

The project was piloted over a two-year period with the following grocery stores, in collaboration with several community college partners: Kroger Co. in Houston (Lone Star College), Whole Foods Market in the greater New York City area (Westchester Community College and LaGuardia Community College), and Publix in Miami (Miami Dade College), training nearly 1,000 frontline retail workers in the three cities. Instruction was provided both at the work site and on college campuses and consisted of 40% in-person instruction and 60% online. Project results include: improved English skills, enhanced career outcomes, as well as increased employee loyalty, customer satisfaction, and store productivity. Now, in the third year, training continues in the New York metro area, and plans are in place to deliver the training at a larger scale, including upgrading and scaling of technology tools, adaptation of curriculum to industries beyond the retail sector, and expansion of the community college delivery network.

Promoting Skilled Immigrant Integration Networks

CCCIE is one of several technical assistance (TA) advisers participating in the WES Global Talent Bridge (WES GTB) *Skilled Immigrant Integration Program*. In 2018, the first year of this national pilot program, eight communities across the country developed and implemented plans to steer the TA they received to help advance their skilled immigrant integration efforts. The goal of SIIP is to establish an ongoing program of customized training, coaching, and technical assistance that strengthens sustainable, multi-sector networks to promote skilled immigrant immigration initiatives.

First-year results have been impressive, with communities focusing on local needs in areas including employer engagement, local and regional partnerships, and engaging community colleges, among other options. In 2018 CCCIE worked directly with three communities, which included a lead agency in each community: Denver (Emily Griffith Technical College), St. Louis (International Institute of St. Louis), and Santa Clara (Refugee and Immigrant Forum). CCCIE shared best practices on leveraging community college resources to help in the integration of

skilled immigrants and helped the communities on ways to build relationships with community colleges to better serve immigrant professionals.

WES GTB has selected eight additional communities to receive customized TA in 2019 Year Two. These eight communities will join with the eight “alumni” communities in the first year that will stay connected to the program by offering mentoring and other activities going forward.

Integrating Immigrant Education/Diversity into National Workforce Development Initiatives

CCCIE’s partnership with the National Council for Workforce Education is shining a spotlight on community college workforce development initiatives that increase educational and career opportunities for immigrant students, as well as other diverse, underserved populations. CCCIE helps shape NCWE’s agenda through its representation on NCWE’s board of directors and through its participation in NCWE’s program committee, working to increase immigrant- and other diversity-focused presentations at NCWE’s annual conference.

Expanding Advocacy and Policy Reach

Opposition to Proposed Public Charge Rule Changes. The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education and the Presidents’ Alliance for Higher Education and Immigration submitted comments to the Department of Homeland Security to express our opposition to the proposed “Public Charge” rule changes. The proposed DHS regulations would penalize low-income immigrants, who receive or who are “likely to receive” public benefits, such as health, housing, and food assistance, that are critical to ensuring they enroll and succeed in higher education. A higher ed template was developed by CCCIE and the Presidents’ Alliance, in collaboration with the Center for Law and Social Policy and with input from the National Skills Coalition. Community colleges and four-year Institutions used the template to modify and submit their own comments.

Joint Statement of Support for Higher Education Dream Act. CCCIE joined with the Presidents’ Alliance, TheDream.US, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and the National Association for College Admission Counseling to express their support of Rep. John Lewis and Rep. Ruben Gallego’s recently introduced Higher Education Dream Act of 2019, which would establish a uniform framework whereby higher education institutions, including community colleges, will have the freedom to make decisions concerning admission and financial aid regardless of a student’s immigration status. Under the bill, eligible immigrant youth, including Dreamers (those eligible for the DREAM Act) and Temporary Protected Status recipients, who satisfy all of a state’s residency criteria would have access to in-state tuition in their states of residence. Moreover, the bill would expand critically needed federal aid eligibility for these students.

For more information on CCCIE’s initiatives, promising practices, and resources, visit cccie.org.