



Seizing the Storm: HillTopper Lessons Year 1

December 11, 2021

The tornado hit at about
2am



November 8, 2023

John Sunnygard - Western Kentucky University

December 11,
2021

The Tornado

- Refugee housing areas were particularly hard hit
- - Campus barriers: Walls and Canyons
 - Consolidate refugee support in WKU Global unit
 - IPAS – International Pathway to Academic Success
 - Lottery winnings! KHAS - Kentucky Humanitarian Assistance Scholarship

“Tear down
this wall!”

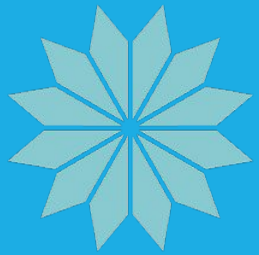
- Determine university unit responsible for working with refugee students
- Resident vs Non-Resident tuition
- Collaborate and co-train critical campus units
 - Financial services
 - Counseling services
 - Registrar
 - Academic advising
 - Residential life
 - Philanthropy

Build bridges that span the globe

- **Local off-campus bridges**
 - International Center of Bowling Green
 - Refuge BG
 - City of Bowling Green
 - Local and federal court system
- **National**
 - KY Community of Practice
 - Presidents Alliance
 - NASH
 - IIE – three units
 - ECAR
- **International**
 - IIE Thailand
 - Other refugee hosting universities

Leveraging Global Learning

- WKU student engagement
 - Resilient Refugee peer-to-peer navigators
 - Music education for refugee children
 - Foreign correspondent scholarships
- Faculty engagement
 - ECAR training
 - Other refugee support training
 - Incorporating refugee support and awareness into courses
 - Photo journalism
 - Entrepreneurship
- Curricular integration
 - Certificate in refugees and forced migration
 - Nov 16 Refugee Mental Health Workshop



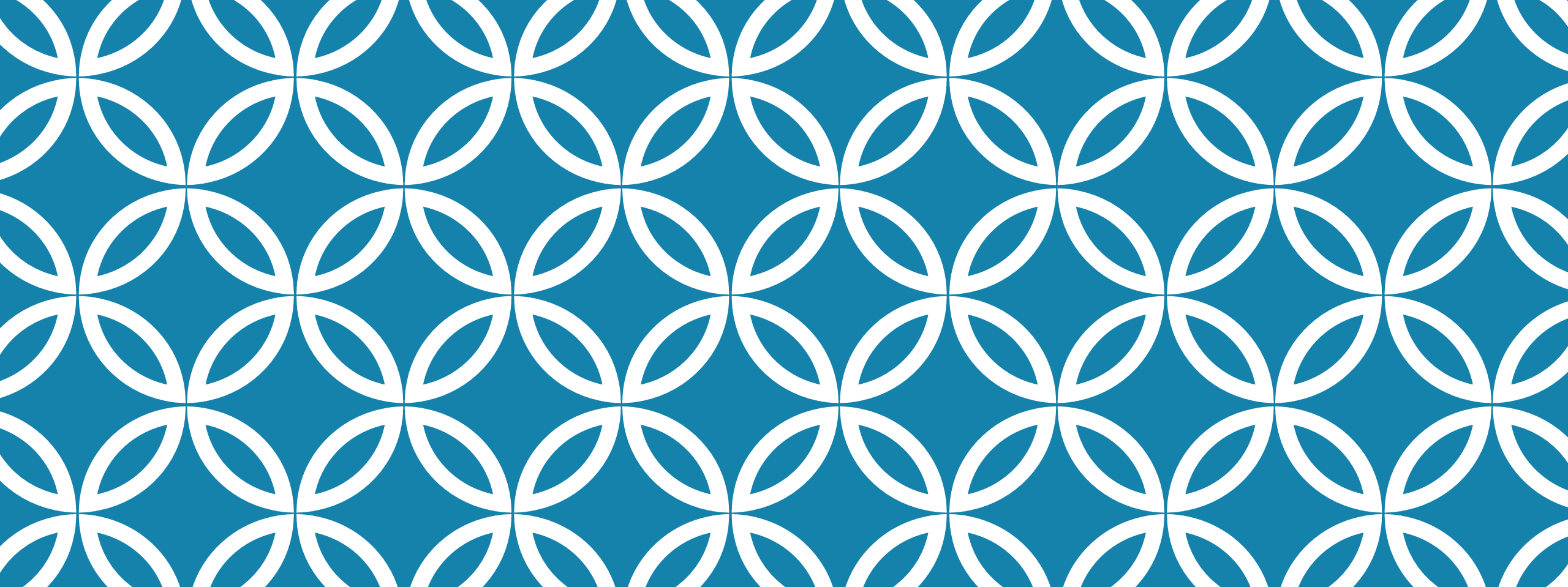
JIRAN جيران

The Arabic Community Action Summer

Maha Abdullah & Emily Goldman

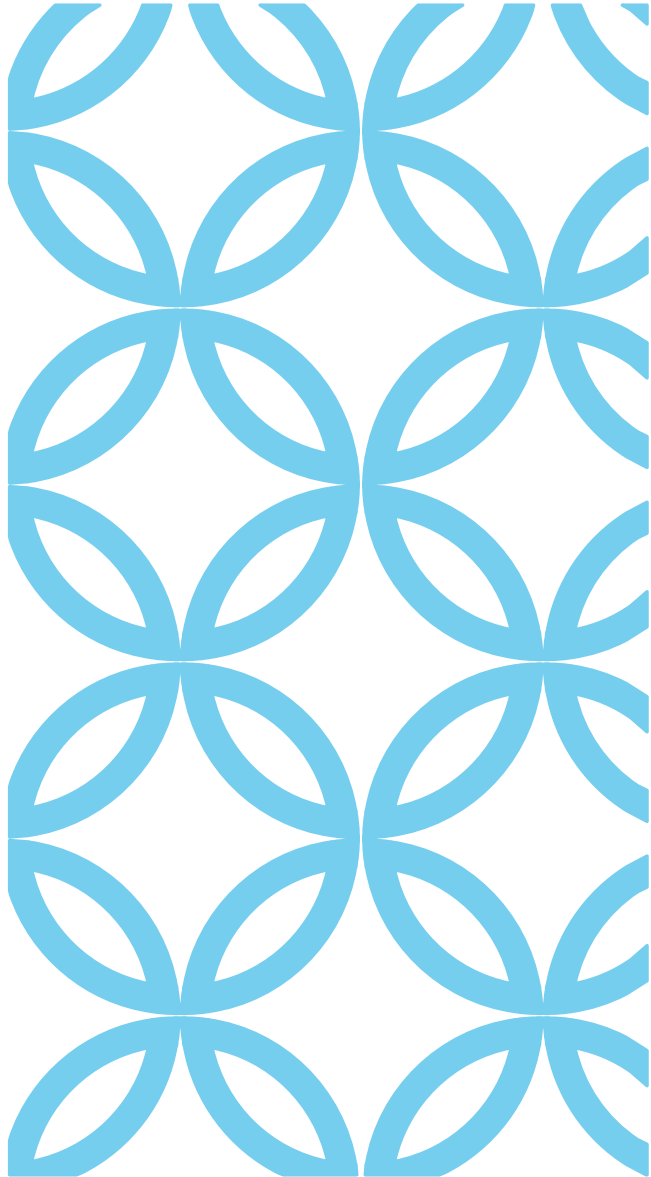


Middlebury
College



BEYOND THE 90 DAYS

WHAT ROLE CAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES PLAY?



BEGINNING



WHO IS JIRAN?



JIRAN جيران
The Arabic Community Action Summer



WHAT IS JIRAN?



Components

1) Experiential Learning

- ❖ Participant-family pairings
- ❖ Guest lectures
- ❖ Field trips
- ❖ Community events
- ❖ Cultural workshops

2) Community Education

- ❖ ESL/fitness/citizenship/digital skilling classes
- ❖ Orientations for service providers
 - ❖ Community events (Dinner Dialogues)

3) Language Instruction

- ❖ Language classes for college/university students
- ❖ Middlebury Language Pledge©
- ❖ Language Partner Interns

BENEFITS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

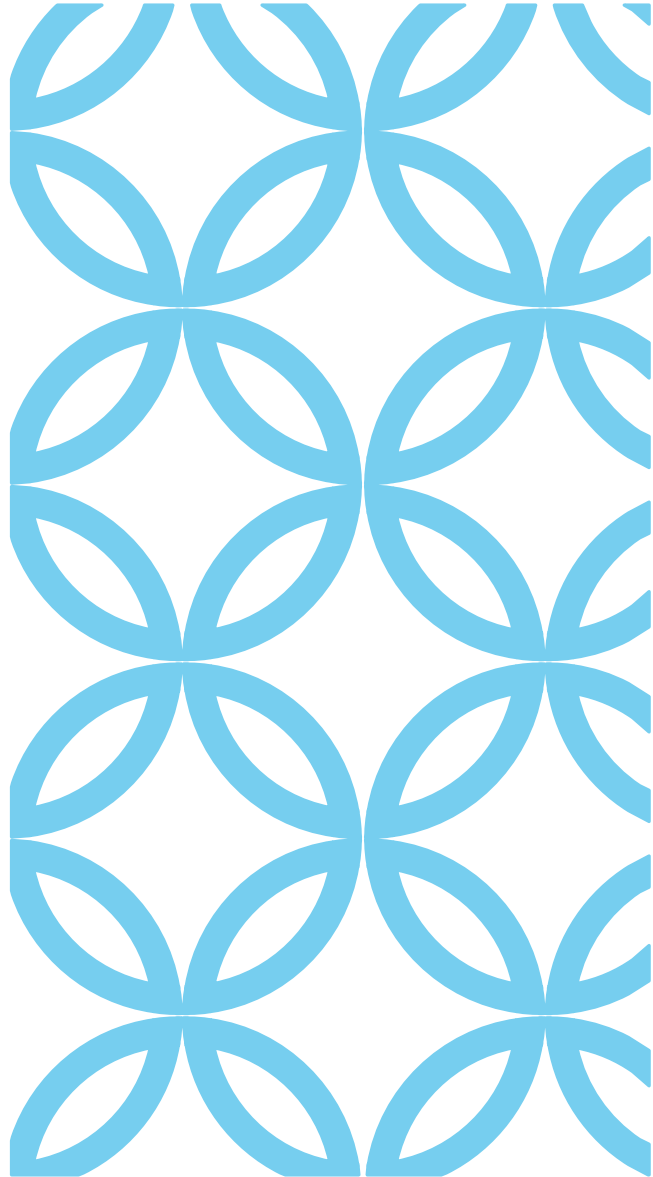


IMPACT: FAMILIES



IMPACT: STUDENT PARTICIPANTS





LOOKING FORWARD

[HTTP://GO.MIDDLEBURY.EDU/JIRAN](http://go.middlebury.edu/jiran)

[FACEBOOK/JIRANSUMMER](https://www.facebook.com/jiransummer)





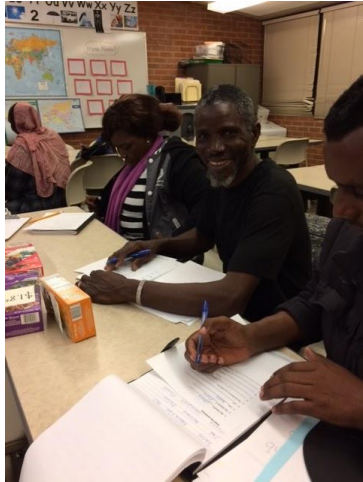
PimaCommunityCollege

/// Keep striving.

Adult Basic Education for College and Career (ABECC)

What is Adult Basic Education?

Since 1969, we've provided adult learners in Pima County with opportunities to:



- **Increase basic skills**
- **Prepare for earning a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma**
- **Improve English language skills**
- **Increase civic involvement**
- **Transition to college and career**
- **Citizenship classes**
- **Refugee Education**



What is Adult Education?



Adult Basic Education (ABE)

- **Below high school level**

High School Equivalency (HSE)

- **High school level, Integrated Education Training (IET)**

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

- **All levels of speaking, writing, listening, speaking and comprehension**

Transition Classes

- **Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (IBEST)**



ABECC Pathway

Building systems to support the whole learner

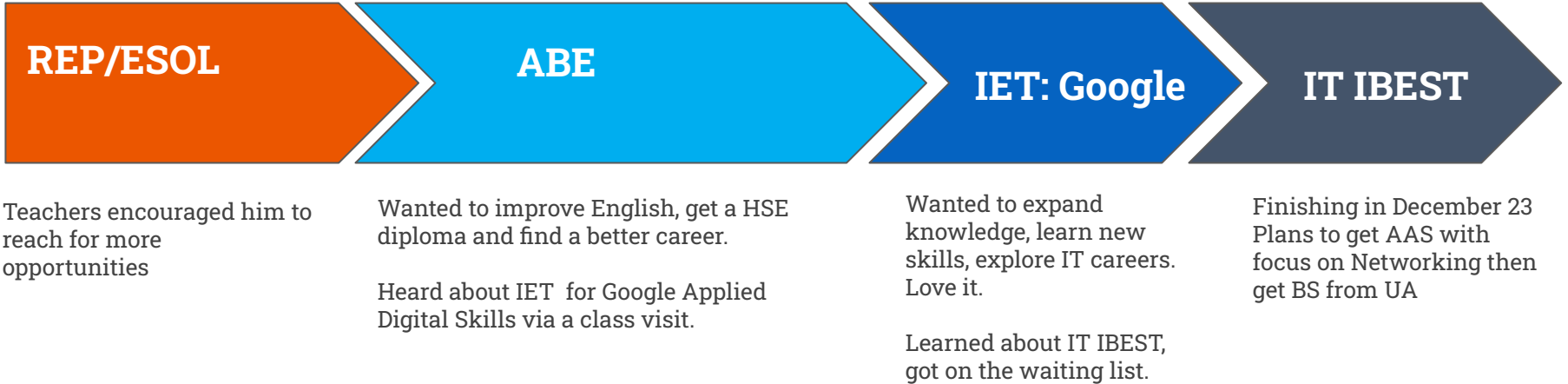


- Clear levels for advancement through REP/ESOL/ABE
- System to move from REP, ESOL to ABE
- Process for students to select next class
- Process for using Pathways Planner throughout
- Activities and information in all classes to identify career goals and help learner align them to ABECC opportunities
- Staff and teachers know about the opportunities and can help learners align them to their goals



Jean-Claude's Pathway

Reaching for Opportunity



The Learner's Journey

Pathways through our Program

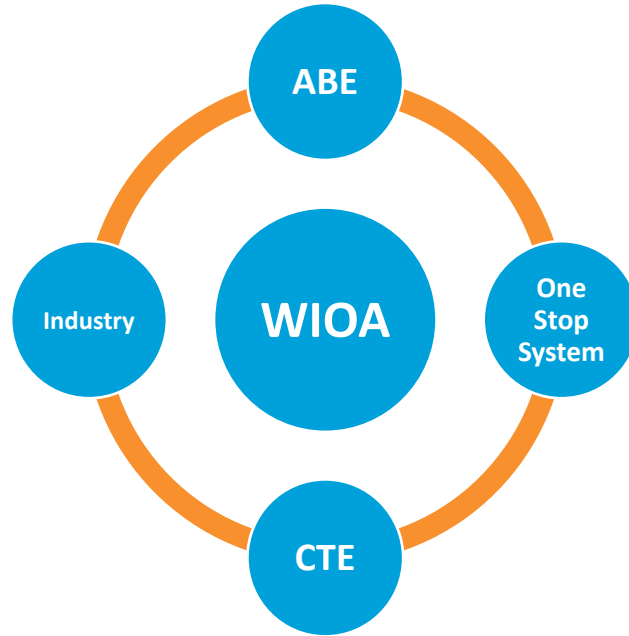
- Learns about program
- Sets career goals
- Meets their Coach
- Pathway Planner: Maps their schedule
- Selects next class
 - Pathway Planner: Chooses next class
- Selects next class
 - Pathway Planner: Chooses next class
- Explores careers in Health
- Coach visits class to guide
 - Pathway Planner: Chooses next class
- Meets with program advisor to register for classes



- ★ ABECC schedule set for entire PY
- ★ Class selection form in class, students choose
- ★ Pathways Planner utilized in each class
- ★ Teachers, Coaches, Staff help learners choose classes to match their goals



Transition: Integrated Basic Education & Skills Training (IBEST)



PCC IBEST: Outcomes

75%

IBEST completion

80%

IBEST grads gained
employment
post-program

50%

IBEST grads employed
in sector



IBEST can benefit:



Adults without HS Diplomas, who are approaching readiness to pass the GED®



Students with HS Diplomas can benefit from basic and employment skills, and from additional support



Employees who work in the field and want to upskill could benefit from additional support



Introduction to REP

PCC REP has been contracted with DES RRP since 1978 as the official provider of English Language Training to refugees, asylees, SIVs, and parolees who have been in the U.S. less than five years and have been resettled in Pima County by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

REP receives referrals from three Refugee Resettlement Agencies

- ❑ Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS)
- ❑ International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- ❑ Catholic Community Services (CCS)
- ❑ Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS)



REP Student Population

Top nationalities being served:

- ❑ DR Congo
- ❑ Afghanistan
- ❑ Syria
- ❑ Eritrea
- ❑ Ukraine
- ❑ Burundi Sudan
- ❑ Somalia



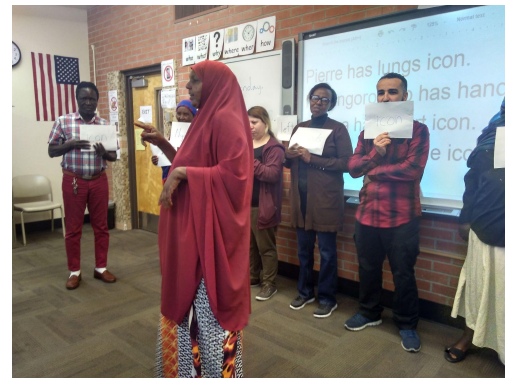
Students' educational background:

- ❑ Students who have higher degrees from their native country
- ❑ Students who are educated in non-Romance languages
- ❑ Adult Emergent Readers (AERs)



Who are AERs?

- ❑ Did not receive formal education in their native language.
 - ❑ Are not familiar with the process of formal education.
 - ❑ May not be familiar with common learning tools such as books or pencils.
-
- ❑ “Preliterate students are beginning readers, but they are not beginning problem solvers” Fish, Knell, Buchanan (2007).



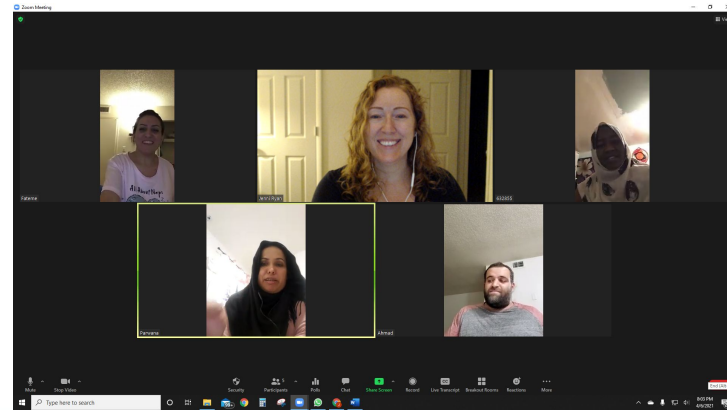
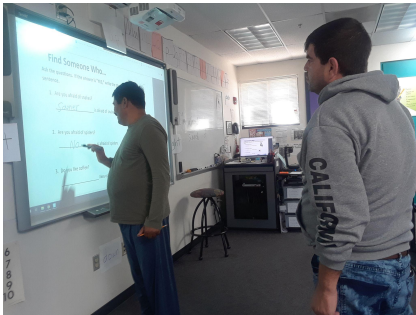
Professional Development

- ❑ Teacher onboarding (12 hrs)
- ❑ Professional Learning Community (PLC) (6 hrs per month)
- ❑ Conferences
 - ❑ [Literacy Education and Second Language Learning for Adults \(LESLLA\)](#)
 - ❑ [TESOL International Association](#)
 - ❑ [Coalition on Adult Basic Education \(COABE\)](#)
 - ❑ [AZTESOL](#)
 - ❑ [Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning](#)
 - ❑ Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Institute



Support Services

- ❑ [Language Line Solution](#)
- ❑ Student Success Coaches
- ❑ Digital accessibility support
- ❑ Digital literacy support



Community Partnership



Muslim Community Center of Tucson



Awareness

- ❑ Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Week
- ❑ New American Talent



Lorena's Story

Lorena Carrion is a former refugee who came from Cuba. She was referred to us by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) just like other learners with refugee backgrounds. Her initial goal was to learn enough English to be able to talk to her children's teachers and find a job. After a couple of years of studying English at Pima Community College (PCC), she was inspired to widen her horizon. Lorena decided to continue her higher education. She's now a PCC alumni and is pursuing higher studies at University of Arizona while working as an interpreter. Lorena got Naturalized last year and she continues serving our community and inspiring people around her by her resilience and determination.



Refugee Career Pathways

TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES

Olga Prizhbilov, Director of Refugee Career Pathways



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Refugees in Sacramento

2021: 17,000 Afghans (2nd in the US)

2021: US extraction of troops from Afghanistan
8,000 more Afghan refugees

2021: 18,000 Ukrainians (4th in the US)

2022-Russia Invades Ukraine
20,000 more Ukrainian refugees

Montoya-Galvez, C. 2022. "Here's where Afghan evacuees have resettled in the U.S." CBS News. Retrieved from

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/afghan-evacuees-resettled-us-texas-california-virginia/>

"U.S. Immigrant population by metropolitan area." 2021. Migration Policy Institute. Retrieve from

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-sub/immigrant-population-by-metropolitan-area?width=850&height=850&iframe=true>

Zhang, S. 2023. "How Asian American organizations in Sacramento are helping Afghan and Ukrainian refugees." The Sacramento Bee. Retrieved from <https://www.sacbee.com/news/equity-lab/article277210633.html>



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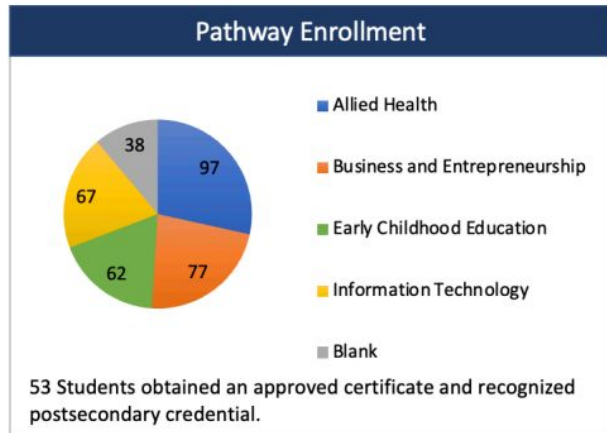
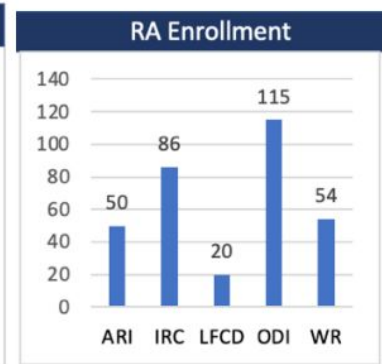
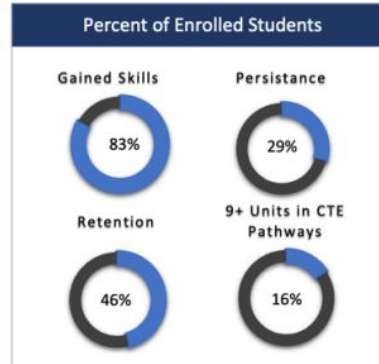
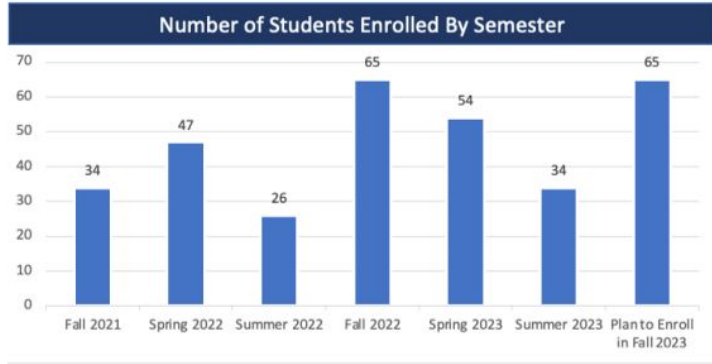
Where we started

- CCCCO Grant - Refugee Career Pathways
- 2022 - Office of Refugee Resettlement Grant
- 2023 - Regional Equity and Recovery Partnership



Resettlement Agencies

325 Students enrolled into Los Rios of 1151 served by Resettlement Agencies



Refugee Career Pathways -Total Program Enrollment - 1552

Our partnerships

Resettlement Agencies

- Asian Resources, Inc.
- International Rescue Committee
- Lao Family Community Development
- Opening Doors, Inc.
- World Relief Sacramento

California Adult Education Regional Consortium (ESL Lab, Dual Enrollment)

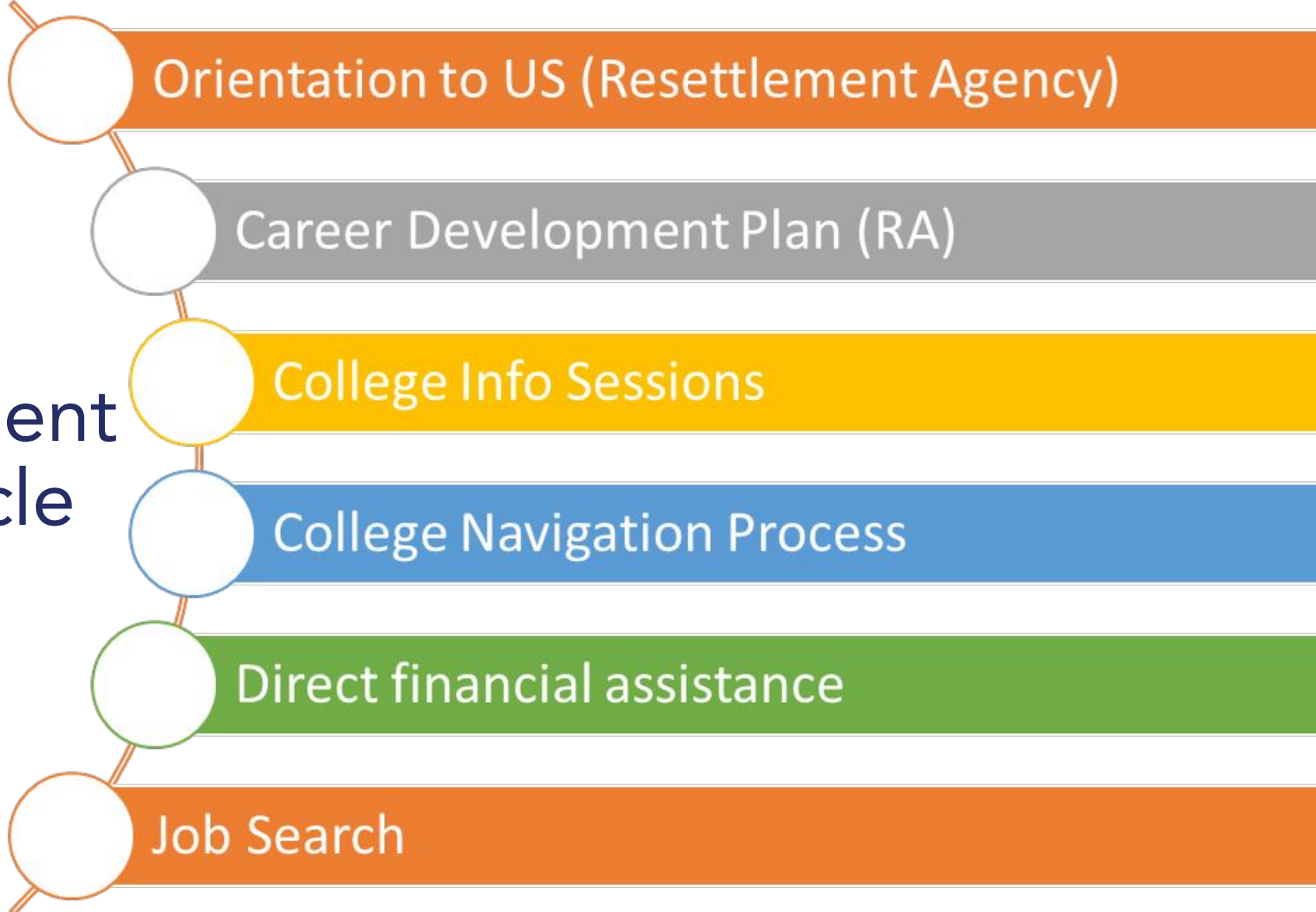


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world relief

Student Cycle





Bootcamps

Goal: provide information + clarity of pathways

- Information about CTE pathway
- Network with Employers
- College Resources
- Technical help w/ college navigation

Not-for-credit Vocational ESL

Goal: Bridge Program to CTE/ESL

- 4-6 week program
- Canvas
- ESL faculty/trainers

- Build confidence
- Try out college
- During program, working with us to:
 - Apply for college
 - FAFSA
 - Registration: CTE and/or ESL
 - Job search



Not-for-credit Vocational ESL

Early Childhood Education
Business Communication
Business Technology
Computer Literacy Camp for Women
Allied Health



Listening Sessions

Goal: provide support + provide information

- Counseling & mental health services
- Basic Needs
- Resettlement support
- Legal immigration support

Peer Mentorship Program

Federal Work Study

LAEP

In-language navigation assistance

Develop peer mentors are
professionals



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Leveraging Resources



Admissions & Records (AB 343)
ESL Centers
Financial Aid

- Case management
- Federal Work Study

Marketing/Public Relations



MAXIMUM
CAPACITY:
91
PERSONS



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