

WELCOMING AND INTEGRATING REFUGEE PROFESSIONALS

BACKGROUND

Too often national media focuses exclusively on the humanitarian needs of refugees, and much less attention is given to the incredible contributions refugees are able to bring to our communities if given a chance. The refugee story is a complex one—and the large number of refugee professionals living in our communities is often a part of the story that remains untold.

SKILLED REFUGEE PROFESSIONALS AND BRAIN WASTE

Skilled refugee professionals are people with university education and/or professional experience earned abroad, seeking to work in their profession or pursue further education to qualify for a career in the United States. Brain waste occurs when college graduates cannot fully utilize their skills and education in the workforce despite their high professional qualification.

FACTORS DRIVING BRAIN WASTE

The four main factors driving brain waste are foreign credential recognition, lack of additional U.S. credentials, lack of social capital, and limited English proficiency. By addressing these issues on a local and national level, we can help refugee professional integrate more successfully.

FEATURED RESOURCES

You will find the resources mentioned on the webinar and much more at the websites below.

www.wes.org

www.imprintproject.org

www.higheradvantage.org

www.welcomingrefugees.org



This tool was created based on the proceedings of the Investing in Refugee Entrepreneurs webinar (will link to resource page).

Welcoming Refugees is a project of Welcoming America and is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Grant # 90RB0050-02-00. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

