

## The Welcome Corps Expands to Facilitate Sponsorship of Refugee Students by Campus Communities and Higher Education Institutions

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Today, the Welcome Corps is pleased to [announce](#) the launch of the *Welcome Corps on Campus*, a new targeted education sponsorship initiative that enables U.S. colleges and universities to play a leading role in resettling refugee students. The Welcome Corps on Campus operates under the umbrella of the Welcome Corps, the broader U.S. private sponsorship program that was launched by the U.S. Department of State in January 2023 for refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

Through the Welcome Corps on Campus, qualified refugee students can pursue life-changing opportunities to continue their education and build their futures in the United States. The program marks a new era of service opportunities for campus communities—students, faculty, staff and institutional leaders—to support higher education for refugee students forced to flee their homes and leave behind the communities they’ve built.

“We are thrilled to launch the Welcome Corps on Campus, a transformative cornerstone of our private sponsorship program that will support refugees whose opportunity to pursue higher education was cut short. Education is a powerful tool for personal advancement that contributes to the strength of our country. We are grateful to the American people, institutions of higher education, campus communities, and our partners for opening doors for refugee students to reach their full potential,” **said Julieta Valls Noyes, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State.**

A first-of-its kind program for refugee students, the Welcome Corps on Campus links higher education access to resettlement through the USRAP, which provides a path to permanent legal status in the United States. Participating U.S. higher education institutions will enroll refugee students in degree programs, and Campus Private Sponsor Groups will commit to supporting their resettlement through private sponsorship. Together, they will play an instrumental role in refugee students’ journey towards long-term integration in the United States.

Institutions of higher education interested in participating in the Welcome Corps on Campus can learn more and subscribe to program updates at <https://welcomecorps.org/campus>.

The Welcome Corps on Campus is implemented by a consortium of nonprofit organizations to establish private sponsorship of refugee students at U.S. campuses through the USRAP, in alignment with the goals of the Welcome Corps. Led by the Community Sponsorship Hub, the consortium includes organizations with expertise in higher education and refugee resettlement: Every Campus A Refuge, the Institute of International Education, the National Association of System Heads (NASH), the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, and World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

[WelcomeCorps.org/Campus](https://welcomecorps.org/campus)

*The Welcome Corps on Campus is a program of the U.S. Department of State, administered by a consortium led by the Community Sponsorship Hub with funding provided by the U.S. government.*

“This expansion of the Welcome Corps allows higher education communities across the country to take a hands-on role in the welcome, support and integration of refugee students, many who have not only been waiting years for a safe place to call home but also for an opportunity to earn a higher education degree. The Welcome Corps on Campus provides those opportunities and creates new avenues for experiential learning, all while strengthening connections between refugee students and members of the surrounding communities,” **said Annie Nolte-Henning, interim executive director of Community Sponsorship Hub.**

“Every Campus A Refuge was founded on the firm belief that higher education has a significant role to play in refugee welcome, protection, and integration. Welcome Corps on Campus is a step in the right direction – providing U.S. colleges and universities with the opportunity to directly sponsor refugee students whose access to higher education is incredibly limited if not non-existent. As part of our work over the last 8 years mobilizing colleges and universities to co-sponsor refugees and support their resettlement and integration using campus resources, Every Campus A Refuge has seen the direct impact on everybody involved when a college or university opens its doors to newcomers. From the refugees who experience a stronger beginning in their new home, to the campus community who is transformed by the power of the connections made, to the local community who benefits immensely from the contributions of its newest Americans, Welcome Corps on Campus will be a win-win for all involved,” **said Diya Abdo, founder and director of Every Campus A Refuge.**

“Welcome Corps on Campus shows what U.S. universities can already do to address a truly global problem. Widening access to higher education for refugees, and at a time when we have the capacity that no other country has, may be the best way we have to avoid a lost generation and make the world we share a less dangerous place,” **said Allan Goodman, chief executive officer of IIE Institute of International Education.**

“We are thrilled to embark on this groundbreaking partnership with the Welcome Corps to leverage the capacity of public higher education systems in providing training and support to those who need it most. This innovative program builds upon America’s longstanding tradition of providing refuge by creating new opportunities for Americans to directly engage in refugee resettlement. Together, the Welcome Corps on Campus and NASH will forge a united front, championing both education and diversity as invaluable assets for our nation's prosperity,” **said Nancy Zimpher, interim executive director of NASH.**

“The launch of the Welcome Corps on Campus is a transformative moment to build on the U.S. tradition to advance safety and protection for displaced people; and embrace the drive, excellence, and experiences that refugee students bring. We are thrilled to support this new program. Through participation in Welcome Corps on Campus, campuses around the country will not only provide life-changing access to U.S. higher education and durable protections for refugee students but these institutions will be enriched and transformed by these students and their perspectives. Sponsoring and enrolling refugee students will spur new opportunities for campuses, strengthen our communities, and enhance the national security and economic prosperity of our nation,” **said Miriam Feldblum, executive director of the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.**

“As an organization that has been engaged in community sponsorship on postsecondary campuses across Canada for over four decades, we are thrilled to celebrate the launch of Welcome Corps on Campus. It is encouraging to see the many diverse organizations, higher education institutions and networks coming together to support the Welcome Corps initiative and its expansion to campuses across the United States. We look forward to contributing to this project with technical expertise and student identification to support the impact this project will have. This is a significant step forward in increasing long-term, sustainable solutions for refugee youth,” **said Chris Eaton, executive director of WUSC.**

Colleges and universities have a rich legacy of welcoming refugees, embracing the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds that newcomers bring to America. The Welcome Corps on Campus builds on that tradition and increases the United States’ resettlement capacity while leveraging campus ecosystems as welcoming communities, where refugee students have access not only to education, but also essential resettlement services including housing, healthcare, and social services.

Through the program, colleges and universities will mobilize Campus Private Sponsor Groups—composed of peer students, faculty, and staff—to provide academic, financial, and resettlement assistance to newly arriving refugee students for their first year. Groups will also develop a plan for sustainably supporting refugee students for the remainder of their studies. The Welcome Corps on Campus creates opportunities to welcome refugee students, tapping into the vibrancy of campus communities to guide refugee students in pursuing higher education, make cultural and social connections, and adapt to American life on- and off-campus.

Today, 149 diverse institutions and organizations with expertise in higher education, resettlement and refugee rights expressed support for the program, which provides an education pathway to citizenship for refugee students.

The list includes:

- African Communities Together
- Agnes Scott
- Airbnb.org
- Alight
- American International College

Antioch College  
Arizona State University  
Augsburg University  
Bard College  
Bennington College  
Berkshire Community College  
Broward College  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bunker Hill Community College  
California State University Fullerton  
Carleton College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Center for Migration and the Global City, Rutgers University-Newark  
Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies at Virginia Tech  
Central Washington University  
Cerritos Community College District  
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU)  
Church World Service  
Clovis Community College  
Colby College  
College of Saint Mary  
Colorado College  
Colorado State University  
Colorado State University Global  
Colorado State University Pueblo  
Colorado State University System  
Community Sponsorship Hub  
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities  
Contra Costa College  
Contra Costa Community College District  
Cornell College  
DePaul University  
Diablo Valley College  
Dominican University  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Educational Testing Service  
Elena's Light INC  
Elon University  
EnglishUSA  
Ethiopian Community Development Council  
Every Campus A Refuge  
Exodus World Service  
Five Together Foundation  
Foothill College  
Foothill-De Anza Community College District  
Georgetown University  
Grand Valley State University  
Guilford College  
Hamilton College  
Hello Neighbor

HIAS  
Home for Refugees USA  
Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies  
Institute of International Education  
International Institute of St. Louis  
International Refugee Assistance Project  
International Rescue Committee  
IRIS – Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services  
Ithaca College  
Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC)  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
KenSAP  
Lewis University  
Los Medanos College  
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants  
Loyola Marymount University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Marymount University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Metro State University  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Middlebury College  
Middlesex Community College/MA  
Montgomery College  
Mount Holyoke College  
Mt. Hood Community College  
Muina International Solutions Inc  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
National Association of System Heads  
New York University  
Niskanen Center  
Northern Arizona University  
Northern Essex Community College  
Oklahoma State University  
One Refugee  
Pace University  
Pairity  
Pomona College  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
Queens University of Charlotte  
Rainbow Railroad  
Re-Imagining Migration  
Refugee & Migrant Education Network  
Refugee Congress  
Refugee Council USA (RCUSA)  
Refugee Welcome Collective  
Refugees International  
RefugePoint  
RewirED

Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roosevelt University  
Rutgers University-Camden  
Rutgers University-Newark  
Saint Joseph's College of Maine  
Salem State University  
Salt Lake Community College  
Salve Regina University  
School for International Training  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Seattle University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
St. Edward's University  
Stockton University  
Suffolk University  
SUNY Cortland  
Tarjimly  
TESOL International Association  
The University of Connecticut  
Towson University  
Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago (TTIC)  
Trinity College  
UC San Diego  
University of Michigan - Dearborn  
University at Albany, SUNY  
University of Dayton  
University of Denver  
University of La Verne  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities  
University of Redlands  
University of San Diego  
University of the District of Columbia  
University of Tulsa  
USAHello  
Virginia Wesleyan University  
We Are All America  
WeaveTales  
Welcome.US  
WelcomeNST  
Welcoming America  
World Education Services  
World Learning  
World Relief  
World University Service of Canada

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About the [Welcome Corps](#) and the [Welcome Corps on Campus](#)

The Welcome Corps is a new program that empowers everyday Americans to come together to privately sponsor refugees, building on our country's long tradition of providing refuge to those fleeing persecution. Through the Welcome Corps, sponsor groups welcome refugees into local communities and directly assist refugee newcomers as they build new lives in the United States.

The Welcome Corps on Campus leverages the capacity of U.S. higher education institutions to serve as resettlement spaces and academic opportunities for refugee students, foster more diverse and inclusive campuses, and create a sustainable opportunity for colleges and universities to welcome refugee students on their campuses. Campus Private Sponsor Groups consisting of staff, faculty, and students will welcome refugee students and provide them with a softer landing, a supportive community, and set them up for academic and overall success.