



A member of the Welcome Back Initiative

## Puget Sound Welcome Back Center

Helping highly qualified immigrants and refugees rebuild their careers

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<http://welcomeback.highline.edu>

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A member of the Welcome Back Initiative



### Mission Statement:

*The Puget Sound Welcome Back Center builds bridges between the pool of internationally trained health care professionals living in Washington state and the need for linguistically and culturally competent professional services.*

*The center's goal is to help these professionals make the best use of their skills through respectful, innovative and individualized career counseling and educational services.*

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## Sponsors

**BuRSST for Prosperity**

<http://www.bursst.org>



**State Board for Community and Technical Colleges - SBCTC**

<http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/>



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### Partners

- Highline Community College - Host
- Renton Technical College
- Tacoma Community College
- South Seattle Community College
- Burien Wellness Consortium

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### Services to ITHP

- Individualized case management
- Help with transfer of skills and credentials
- Educational and career planning
- Cultural awareness
- Job resources
- Licensing assistance / navigating state standards
- Referrals to educational interventions
- Networking
- Employment pipeline/partnerships
- Healthcare workplace readiness
- Pathways to employment

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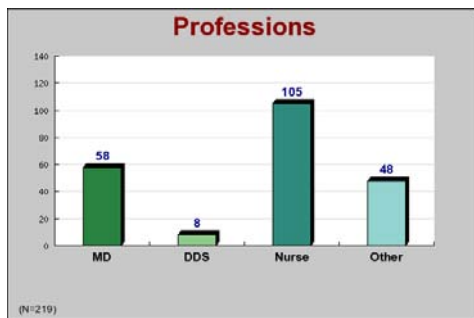
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### Currently in Puget Sound Welcome Back Center



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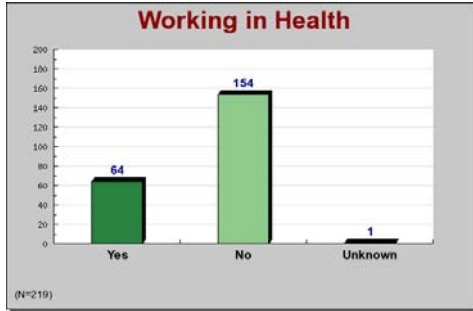
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Currently In Puget Sound  
Welcome Back Center




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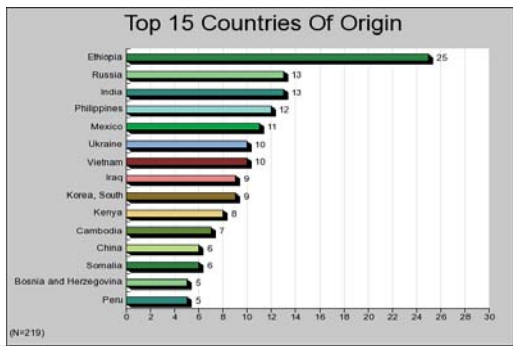
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In Puget Sound Welcome Back Center




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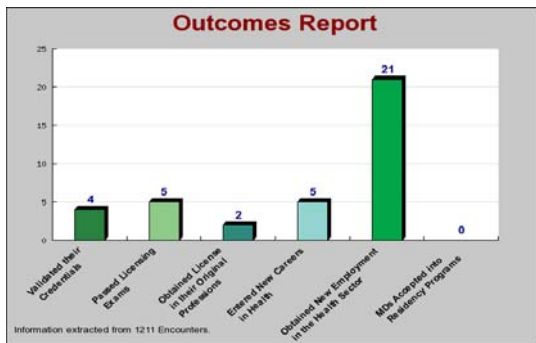
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Puget Sound Welcome Back Center




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Success Stories  
Puget Sound Welcome Back Center

<u>Number of participants</u>	<u>Action</u>
3	received Pharmacy Assistant licenses
10	received the ID # to take USMLE tests
8	currently in the USMLE licensing process (2 are pursuing residency)
22	applied for RN license
4	authorization to test for NCLEX
1	passed the NCLEX-RN

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Success Stories  
Puget Sound Welcome Back Center

5	applied for LPN license
11	passed and received their CNA licensure
2	application for Sonographer's license (alternative career for MD)
4	started application to DOH to become Radiologic Technologist
5	authorization to test received for ARDMS
10	graduated from Phlebotomy program

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Recurring Themes

- **Economic Issues**  
training options that are affordable and convenient for families, tuition assistance, and other resources
- **English Language Proficiency**  
accelerated, health-focused, ESL curriculum
- **Loss of Professional Identity**  
explore professional options that make the best use of professional experience and interests
- **Lack of Familiarity with the US Health System**  
workshops and courses that clarify what the health system in the US is like and how it works

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### Benefits to Washington State

- Recruits targeted populations into health care careers
- Adds to cultural competence and linguistic diversity
- Promotes collaboration among agencies and education
- Integrates professional workers into local economy
- Helps underserved communities - workers and patients
- Addresses healthcare personnel shortage
- Helps to accommodate working adults with families
- Contributes to economic growth

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### Resources

- [www.refugeeworks.org](http://www.refugeeworks.org)
- [www.welcomebackinitiative.org](http://www.welcomebackinitiative.org)
- [www.upwardlyglobal.org](http://www.upwardlyglobal.org)

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### Grand Opening Sept. 2008



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### Phlebotomy Graduation



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### Group Health Visit



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### Harborview Tour



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### Nurses' Support Group



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### NCLEX Workshop



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### Ongoing Success Stories



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