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www.welcomebackinitiative.org

Dear friends and supporters of the San Francisco Welcome Back Center,

For fourteen years, the San Francisco Welcome Back Center has provided services to doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals from many different countries who have lost their professional status when they immigrated to the U.S. With your support, the San Francisco Welcome Back Center has served over 3,082 individuals and launched the Welcome Back Initiative, a consortium of 11 Welcome Back Centers throughout the United States.

The San Francisco Welcome Back Center, which has relied on generous grant funding from private foundations throughout its history, will suspend operations on November 4th due to inadequate funding. The Centers in other cities will continue to integrate foreign-trained health professionals into careers in health fields in their new communities.

The San Francisco Welcome Back Center developed a program model that incorporates individual case management, career counseling services, curricula development, resource coordination, and group interventions to address four barriers to their integration into the health workforce in the U.S.: limited English language proficiency, limited financial resources and time, a lack of familiarity with the U.S. health care system, and limited credit given by educational institutions for their foreign education. Welcome Back Centers now provide services in California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington State, Maryland, Texas, New York, Colorado, and Pennsylvania.

While our Center will cease operations, a tremendous need remains. Our clients' skills, knowledge and experience can serve a vital role in their new communities, most of which have health worker shortages and a lack of bilingual and bicultural health services providers.

The work of the Welcome Back Initiative continues and remains as important as it was when we started in 2001. Over these years, we have served over 14,000 participants from 167 countries. With our support, thousands of our participants have been able to re-start their professional lives in the U.S. and are now fulfilling our mission to improve the diversity of the health workforce as a critical means of reducing health disparities.

Welcome Back Initiative Centers:

San Diego – Boston – Rhode Island – Puget Sound (WA) – Suburban Maryland
San Antonio (TX) – New York – Colorado – Northwest Washington (WA) – Philadelphia

As a co-founder of the IMPRINT coalition (www.imprintproject.org), I and the Welcome Back Initiative will remain actively engaged in the advocacy work we started a few years ago. We are firmly committed to working with our co-founders in ensuring that foreign-trained professionals have access to the services they may need to realize their professional dreams.

It's been our distinct privilege to work with clients, colleagues, and partners like yourself. The leadership and staff of the San Francisco Welcome Back Center are grateful for your past support and hope to work with you again in the future.



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