



December 13-14, 2018

OUR CITY OF NATIONS

Arriving, Surviving, Thriving: A Journey from New to Neighbor

2018 Executive Conference Summary

Vision

To provide a platform for improved skills attainment, sharing, and captivation of advanced research and practices within the prism of Human Wellness, being interchangeably influenced by local and global factors.

Introduction

At OCON3 we came together as a community to serve our region's newest neighbors. We gathered in hopes of strengthening our capacity to extend social services to our new neighbors and to provide a small measure of relief to their ongoing efforts in gaining stability for themselves and for their families. OCON3 welcomed national level speakers to talk about how to help our vulnerable neighbors through the first years of life in the US. OCON3 also provides the chance to roll up our sleeves and talk with each other about what works and what has yet to be tried. By linking ourselves and our agencies to shared purposes we collectively realized tangible outcomes of strengthening our regional refugee safety net.

Goal

To mobilize and harness the diverse knowledge, capacities, and services of various stakeholders interested to learn from those who interface with refugee and immigrant communities in the USA.

Action

OCON3 was held December 13 and 14, 2018 at Concordia University Wisconsin, School of Pharmacy. It hosted over 200 registrants, representing 50 different organizations, from seven different sectors. Speakers included national level policy makers, service organization leaders, state and federal level government officials, education professionals, and healthcare providers.

Artwork created by local Bhutanese refugees to depict the experience of living in camps in Nepal, was displayed near the registration table for registrants to view. Registrants were invited to draw upon a collaborative canvas based on the prompt: *Have you ever felt like you have multiple "homes"? What do they look like?*

Conference Evaluation

Participants' feedback was documented through a post-conference online survey that was sent out via email. These survey results demonstrated significant enthusiasm for the conference. A super majority stated that "this conference has improved my ability to deliver services to newcomers" and provided discussions centered on relevant themes. Please ask for our "Post Conference Evaluation Narrative" document for a full summary of responses.

Next Steps

The momentum from this conference must be advanced for the betterment of refugee and immigrant communities and for all agencies assisting in the process of acculturation and integration. It is important to maintain connections and networking in order to collaborate on shared purposes. The suggestions from attendees on what more to include and how to improve the next conference are being duly noted in order to provide the best conference possible.

Thank You Co-sponsors

Anonymous
Donor

