

Help for families in transition

On top of everything else, navigating parenting in a new country presents unique challenges for many of our students. Fortunately, The ILC's family literacy coordinator, Laura Straub, is here to help. She offers one-on-one support for students and their families, from finding daycare options to facilitating communication with a child's teacher. She also holds workshops throughout the year to address some of the most common concerns.

In the spring, she held a "summer success" workshop to help caregivers with children out of school for summer break discover fun activities that promote learning. These workshops are also valuable for community-building. Caregivers from different classes had a chance to meet, and many exchanged contact information and planned outings or playdates with their children.



The ILC Students discover summer fun activities that promote their children's learning in a summer success family literacy workshop.

Some students needed to interrupt their English classes to care for children for the summer. Laura also explained how they could continue their learning during the break. In fact, they must submit evidence of the literacy activities they did over the summer in order to return to The ILC in the fall.

In August, Laura held a "back to school" workshop. Aiming to ease the transition from vacation to a new school year, she covered topics such as understanding a school supply list, their school calendar and important dates.

Family literacy is another example of how The ILC helps not only individuals, but entire families.



The ILC Students learn English words for school supplies as they prepare to send their children back to school in a family literacy workshop.



Ruth, a single mother from Peru, wasn't sure what to do with her inquisitive seven-year-old, Frankie, for the summer. The ILC family literacy coordinator helped her find a scholarship to a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) summer camp, an opportunity he never would have had otherwise. As a result, Frankie spent the summer exploring his interests and creating exciting projects.

Empowering teachers, empowering students

For 12 years The Immigrant Learning Center has been helping America's teachers better serve their immigrant students and educate all students about the role of immigration throughout history at our summer Immigrant Student Success conference.

The overwhelming feedback we've received throughout the years was that the teachers found the content valuable, and they wanted more. They wanted the chance to dive into the topics more deeply. This year, we're giving it to them.

"It was my first experience with The ILC, and I was awestruck. The quality and number of presenters was incredible."

- Carolyn Hine, teacher, Lexington, MA

We didn't want to simply do more of the same. We want to add substantial value to teachers and their students, so The ILC went through the process of becoming a certified professional development provider by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This means that Massachusetts Pre-K through 12 grade teachers can not only gain valuable tools and information for supporting their students, they can also meet their professional development requirements in our new, free Immigrant Student Success course.

2024 Immigrant Student Success

Strategies and Tools for PreK-12 and Adult Educators

July 16, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
#ILCwebinar

Digital Literacy



Gabriel Brum

The Immigrant Learning Center

The ILC Digital Literacy Instructor Gabriel Brum was one of many talented presenters at the Summer Immigrant Student Success Conference.

Since the training is delivered online, all of the sessions are available to anyone who wants to participate live or watch the recordings on YouTube. Massachusetts teachers who register for the course get the extra benefit of individual support and professional development points.

The course kicked off with the summer conference attended by educators from 36 states and continues with hour-and-a-half sessions throughout the school year.

"I can honestly say that I had takeaways from each presentation. This is an A-M-A-Z-I-N-G conference. I am so grateful for the quality of information and resources... My district is so small that there are really no funds for outside the district PD. Thank you."

- Mary Malone, teacher, Council Bluffs, IA

Honor immigrant entrepreneurs with us!



Barry M. Portnoy Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards

November 21, 2024

The 11th annual awards will be extra special with a panel discussion moderated by the *Boston Business Journal* Executive Editor Doug Banks.

Tickets and sponsorships available online:



Thank you, donors!

It is with our deepest thanks that we recognize the following donors who made financial and in-kind contributions to The ILC between March 2024, and October 1, 2024. Special thanks to our monthly donors, Facebook fundraisers and those who use giving and matching programs through their employers. Please check with your company's HR department for details.

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With a little help and a lot of determination, this family is pursuing their dream

David and Menvy were building promising careers as doctors in Haiti when the gang violence rocking the country became too much to bear. After receiving threats of kidnapping and death and even losing a loved one, they were forced to flee to safety in the United States.


With a child on the way, the couple settled with family members in Everett. They were safe, but the life they were building for themselves was gone, and they had to start over. It's hard enough to start a medical career. It seems nearly impossible when you don't speak English.

With support from The ILC advisors, Menvy completed a free CNA (certified nursing assistant) training program and started a job as a patient care associate at Mass General Hospital.



“Without ILC I couldn't find a program to take the CNA... I couldn't pass the state exam, I couldn't get the interview or get the job.”

- Menvy



“It's like from 100 to 0 when you were a doctor and now you work as a cleaner.”

- David

Fortunately, Menvy's aunt told them about The Immigrant Learning Center. At The ILC, David and Menvy focused on learning English and re-starting their careers. They learned job search skills. David says, “I didn't know how to prepare [for an interview] before. Now, it's simple.”

David is working nights cleaning airplanes, while during the day he pursues his dream of practicing medicine in this country. Full of determination and with a little guidance, both of them are on a clear path toward new medical careers.

We can learn a lot from them too. Menvy's advice? “Even if you have to start at the lowest level, you just have to keep in mind what you want, and work on it, and know, If you have enough determination, you will accomplish your goal.”

See what's new

Here are some new ways to see the work you support online:

Brand new website:
ilctr.org



Now on Instagram:
@theimmigrantlearningcenter



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Giving Immigrants a Voice Since 1992

Nearly 200 new citizens welcomed in Malden

One of the last pre-pandemic events to come back is The Immigrant Learning Center's annual swearing-in ceremony. On September 26, 2024, 198 new Americans were sworn in at a ceremony at Malden High School sponsored by The Immigrant Learning Center in partnership with U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the City of Malden. That hasn't happened since 2019.

It wasn't just life-changing for the new Americans and their families, it was a moving, educational experience for all who attended, including more than 100 Malden High School students as well as teachers, Malden High School Principal Christopher Mastrangelo and Superintendent Dr. Timothy Sippel.

At least 50 new voters were enrolled that day as well, thanks to our friends at MIRA Coalition registering them on sight following the ceremony.



New U.S. citizens being sworn-in at The-ILC-sponsored ceremony.



The ILC Teacher Jeantilus Gedeus sings the national anthem. On stage behind him from left to right are: Eric Sibert with USCIS, Superintendent Dr. Timothy Sippel, MA Senator Jason Lewis and The ILC Trustee Mahmud Jafri, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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