

# Health Workforce Initiative

## San Diego & Imperial Region

Director: Ann Durham, RN, MSN, FNP, Esq.

Hosted by:



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### **SAN DIEGO WELCOME BACK CENTER**

#### **U.S. Secretary of Labor Connects with Foreign-Trained Healthcare Workers**

*Thomas E. Perez visited the San Diego Welcome Back Center at Grossmont College*

EL CAJON, CA (Thursday, June 26, 2014) – U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez visited the San Diego Welcome Back Center located at Grossmont College on June 26. The San Diego Welcome Back Center assists foreign-trained health professionals obtain licensure to work in California. During his afternoon visit, Perez visited a classroom of English learners who recently immigrated to the United States. After that, he participated in a roundtable discussion that included students and graduates of the Welcome Back Center, and officials from Grossmont College, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, the Health Workforce Initiative California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and regional partners.

Ann Durham, Director of the Health Workforce Initiative and the San Diego Welcome Back Center, welcomed the group by highlighting the purpose of the program. "As recipient of the 2011 E Pluribus Unum Prize for exceptional immigrant integration initiatives, the Welcome Back Center takes pride in helping foreign-trained health professionals go from being unemployed or underemployed to practicing in their fields of education and expertise. Every successful WBC participant increases the diversity of the healthcare workforce, helping to achieve the goal of reflecting the rich diversity in our community."

Welcome Back Center program participants include legal immigrants and refugees who were trained in the healthcare field in their countries of origin, including Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Serbia, among others. Helping these professionals obtain California licensure meets the need for cultural and linguistic diversity in the workplace.

The San Diego Welcome Back Center, a program of the Health Workforce Initiative California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, is a one-stop resource center for internationally-trained health professionals. Since its inception in 2001, more than 3,600 foreign-trained health professionals have received assistance through the San Diego Welcome Back Center. Nearly 700 active participants are currently working with the Center. For more information, visit [www.welcomebackcenter.org](http://www.welcomebackcenter.org).



#### **NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH FACULTY WORKSHOPS**

A workshop entitled: "Transforming Nursing Education to Practically Prepare our Students for Professional Practice" featuring Keith Rischer [KeithRN], was held on June 4, 2014 with 60 faculty members in attendance. A workshop focusing on the use of Technology in the Classroom featuring Rushton Hurley will be held on October 17, 2014.

#### **CUSTOMIZED MEDICAL ASSISTANT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING**

In partnership with UCSD Extension, the HWI Director has developed customized MA curriculum for North County Health Services and for the Family Health Centers of San Diego. The curriculum is available on the HWI website.

#### **CALIFORNIA ACTION COALITION [CA AC] / RWJF INITIATIVE ON THE FUTURE OF NURSING**

The HWI Director is a regional Co-Champion and partners with the Association of California Nurse Leaders [ACNL] to provide nurses in the region with updated information.

#### **HEALTH and SCIENCE PIPELINE INITIATIVE [HASPI]**

HWI continues its strong partnership with HASPI to support regional as well as statewide career pathways for health occupations from secondary through post-secondary education, development of information and evaluation tools for statewide partner implementation; and website enhancement specific to statewide partner audience.

#### **MEN IN NURSING WORKSHOP**

A "Men in Nursing" Workshop is being planned for September 26, 2014. It is anticipated that there will be 130 high school students and 20 college students in attendance.

#### **San Diego/Imperial Region Colleges:**

Grossmont College, Cuyamaca College, MiraCosta College, Palomar College, San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College, Southwestern College, Imperial Valley College