

University of North Carolina–Greensboro

# THE CENTER FOR NEW NORTH CAROLINIANS

Annual Report

December 2021



For more information  
and stories, check out  
our website:

[cnnc.uncg.edu](http://cnnc.uncg.edu)



**UNC  
GREENSBORO**

Center *for* New  
North Carolinians



## Notable Projects: Vaccine Education and Access

The CNNC's Immigrant Health ACCESS Project (IHAP)--in collaboration with the New Arrivals Institute--was awarded new grants from the CDC Foundation and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to provide flu and COVID-19 vaccine education and access among immigrants and refugees in the Greensboro area. The IHAP has received nearly \$600,000 in funding to help increase access and integrated health care to uninsured immigrants and refugees. Vaccine clinics were available on-site at all three community engagement centers. Providing vaccinations clinics at the centers eliminated the transportation challenges many immigrants and refugees face.



### IHAP and COVID-19 Vaccines

The Immigrant Health ACCESS Project staff scheduled and confirmed COVID-19 vaccines for 168 people.



### New Partnerships

The CNNC established 5 new partnerships. These partnerships include collaborations with CPS, Guilford County Schools, and the UNCG Psychology Clinic.



### Guilford County Schools

The CNNC partnered with Guilford County Schools to provide full-time onsite interpreters at 16 GCS schools for the entire academic year to ensure language access to children and parents.

## Notable Donations

A special thank you to all of those who made kind, generous, and thoughtful donations to the CNNC. This year the CNNC received donations for family memberships to local museums, a testamentary gift to provide a scholarship to an immigrant or refugee intern at the CNNC, funds to support the community centers, and a beautiful quilt which now hangs at the front of the CNNC office. Thank you again to our wonderful donors. We are truly grateful!

### The CEC Gets a Fence

The CNNC celebrated the installation of an important addition to its Community Enrichment Center (CEC)--a fence to protect the children served by the Center during their outdoor activities. The fence was made possible by a generous donation from CNNC friends Hashim and Alexandra Warren and the support of the Phillips Management Group who provide the space where the CEC is located as well as continued support for its staff, services, and community members. The celebration was also attended by Greensboro's Mayor, Nancy Vaughn, a wonderful supporter of the CNNC and the newcomer communities it serves.



## Awards and Recognition

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) announced the University of North Carolina-Greensboro as a recipient of the 2021 W.K Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Award and the winner of the 2021 C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Scholarship Award. The Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC) was recognized for its culturally responsive scholarship, community engagement, and accessibility services to immigrant and refugee communities. You can watch the video [here](#).



## The CNNC Receives Funding

The CNNC received grants from 11 different organizations, agencies, and foundations to support and fund services for children's education, network opportunities for women, and health access to local immigrant and refugee communities.

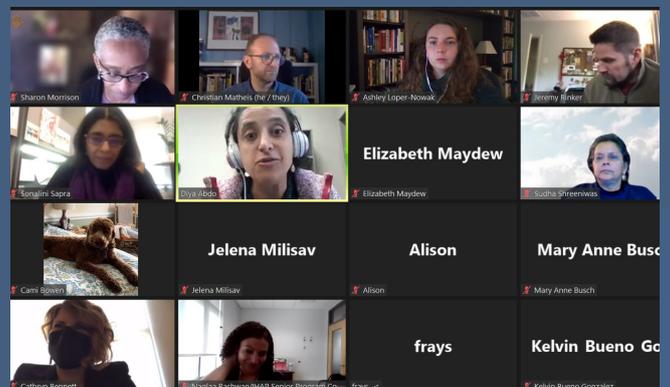


## New Positions and Database Management Systems

The CNNC's Interpreter ACCESS Project (IAP) implemented a new strategic plan which resulted in the creation of a new position, the IAP Project Program Coordinator, and the hiring of Nozipho Viki. This new plan will allow the IAP to grow as a revenue building program. The CNNC also established a new database management system to record and track information throughout the CNNC, in an effort to better collect and analyze data.

## CNNC Fellows and the Annual Shifting Worlds Symposium

The CNNC Fellows is comprised of 110 faculty members and practitioners. This year, the Fellows met a total of eight times throughout the academic school year. The Curricular/Co-Curricular subcommittee also organized the annual Shifting Worlds Symposium. This year's symposium was titled "Engagement with Refugee and Immigrant Communities during a Pandemic: Collaborations, Challenges, and Resilience" and included sessions dedicated to discussing support and services accessibility to immigrant and refugee communities. The CNNC received proposal submissions from professors, practitioners, and students. Nearly two hundred individuals registered to attend the sessions throughout the day. Dr. Cristina Santamaría Graff was the opening keynote speaker. She presented on her "Family as Faculty" approach which challenges institutional hierarchies in higher education. Dr. Aurora Santiago-Ortiz was the closing keynote speaker and presented on the benefits of participatory action research (PAR).



## The CNNC Spearheads Efforts for a New Minor at UNCG

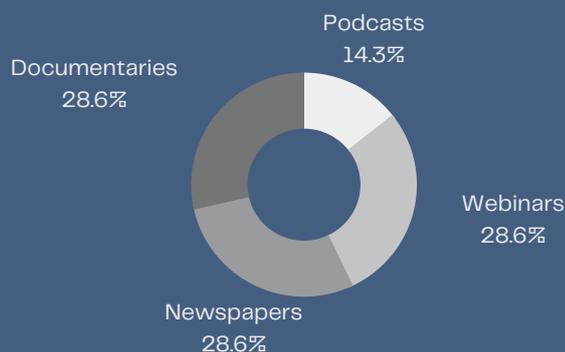
UNCG's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee has approved the minor Forced Migration and Resettlement Studies which will be offered by UNCG's Peace and Conflict Studies Department. The proposal for the minor was organized by a group of dedicated CNNC Fellows. The minor's capstone, a practicum embedded in the CNNC's work, will be taught by CNNC Fellows. The minor will begin in the fall 2022 semester.

## The Afghan Response Taskforce

CNNC Program Coordinators Naglaa Rashwan and Natacha Nikokeza led efforts in creating the Afghan Evacuee Response Taskforce. The taskforce was established with the goal of helping resettlement agencies and providing long-term support for Afghan refugees who will be resettled in the Greensboro area.

### In the News

The CNNC made a total of 7 media appearances.



## New in Town: Immigration in Guilford County

The Greensboro History Museum Webinar series hosted a three part special where CNNC staff discussed the history and experiences of immigrants and refugees in North Carolina. In part one, Kelsey White, the former Immigrant Health ACCESS Program Coordinator, discussed immigrant and refugee health issues. Natacha Nikokeza, the Community Centers Senior Program Coordinator, talked about the refugee experience in part two. In the final part, Betsy Jenson, the Immigration Services Program Director addressed immigrant and refugee legal issues.

### New in Town:

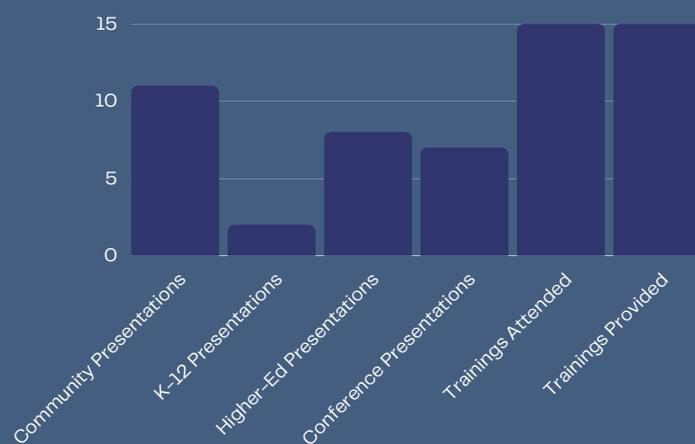
## IMMIGRATION IN GUILFORD COUNTY

A GREENSBORO HISTORY MUSEUM WEBINAR SERIES



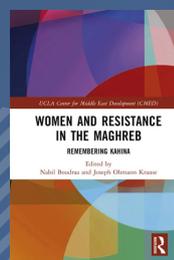
## Professional Development and Training

Members of the CNNC staff provided and attended a total of 30 training sessions this year, presented at 7 conferences, and gave 21 presentations at K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and community centers. CNNC staff guest lectured and presented in classes at UNCG, Guilford College, Oberlin College, Butler University, NC State University, the Weatherspoon Museum, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, GCS Claxton Elementary, the Guilford County School District, and the Greensboro Rotary Club, among others. CNNC staff also received trainings in suicide prevention and provided trainings in mental health at Appalachian State University.



## Notable Publications

Dr. Diya Abdo and Dr. Maria Bobroff published a book chapter titled "'Look Who's Laughing Now': A Comparative Study of Maghrebi Women Cartoonists" in *Women and Resistance in the Maghreb: Remembering Kahina*. CNNC Fellows, Dr. Nneze Eluka and Dr. Sharon Morrison, along with their colleague Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz published an article based on original research conducted with IHAP. You can find the article titled, "'The Wheel of My Work': Community Health Worker Perspectives and Experiences with Facilitating Refugee Access to Primary Care Services" [here](#).



## Success Stories: Immigrant Health ACCESS Project

IHAP collaborated with Appalachian State University (ASU) in their efforts to learn how to serve and advocate for immigrants and refugees in their area. IHAP Senior Program Coordinator conducted three workshops for ASU that covered the Community Health Workers Model at the CNNC as well as Mental Health Services and Cultural Humility when working with immigrants and refugees. This opportunity offered ASU insight into the challenges of service provision for immigrants and refugees as well as provided an opportunity for collaborating with the CNNC to share experiences and build capacities in supporting local immigrant and refugee communities. -Naglaa Rashwan

## Success Stories: Community Centers

Being at the community center and helping kids and adults has been one of the highlights of my life. I look forward to making a difference in the community every morning. I love helping adults in getting jobs; and seeing them become self-sufficient is so rewarding. It is even greater when I see a client that I have helped to get a job, helping others by providing transportation, childcare or just referring new clients to me. -Natacha Nikokeza

## Success Stories: Immigration Services

CNNC Immigration Services has stepped up to take on the challenge of helping elderly disabled immigrants and refugees naturalize by providing assistance with Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions. Considering many elderly refugees in particular come from a background of low education, lack of access to health care, and poor nutrition, Form N-648 can provide their only pathway to citizenship. To date we have completed and submitted seven naturalization applications with the Medical Exception form with numerous others in the pipeline. It pairs wonderfully with our naturalization grant which allows us to provide naturalization services free of charge. -Betsy Jensen

## Success Stories: Interpreter ACCESS Project

My experiences working at Moses Cone hospital and Guilford County schools have been great. It makes my day every time I'm able to help a patient mitigate their anxiety, help a parent better understand their children's educational performance and learning challenges, and voice teachers' concerns and advice on how to help the student improve in the classroom. The rewards I get from working with the Center for New North Carolinians are endless. I'm very grateful and proud of being part of the team of interpreters. -Wilma Mendez

## Success Stories: CNNC Interns

It feels so good to listen and watch a child read to me and that they feel comfortable enough to ask me 'what does this word mean,' or ask for help with sounding out words and writing it down on paper to help them visualize the word. It feels good to give back to the community, especially since so many educational after school programs have now become costly. We are able to provide a free after school service that not only benefits the children but their parents as well. -Shanisha Hopkins

## Success Stories: Thriving at Three

This semester, I have had the pleasure of working with five undergraduate social work interns through the Thriving at Three program, providing mentorship and some supervision on a bi-weekly basis. It has been very fulfilling to see all five of them grow more confident in their abilities to interact with families with diverse needs and to advocate for their own needs as service providers. -Andrea Graziano

