

November 7-18, 2022

OUR CITY OF NATIONS

Together: Honoring Struggle, Celebrating Success, and Healing Forward

Executive Summary

Introduction

Our City of Nations (CON) 5.0 was the first in-person meeting since 2018. The conference focused on creating a welcoming infrastructure as individuals and collectively came together to strengthen relationships across sectors and understanding of all newcomers. The 2022 conference welcomed speakers of diverse professional and personal backgrounds to share their lived experiences providing services and with refugees of those transitioning to life in the United States. We heard perspectives from refugee leaders in the community, enjoyed cooking demonstrations from chefs of refugee and immigrant backgrounds, and

Provide a platform for improved skills attainment, sharing, and captivation of advanced research and practices within the prism of human well-being, being interchangeably influenced by local and global factors.

Goal

Mobilize and harness the diverse knowledge, capacity, and services of various stakeholders engaged to learn from and with those who interface with refugee and immigrant communities in the United States.

Educational objectives

1. Define refugee status and describe the process of refugee resettlement
2. Understand how to approach and interact with different cultural norms, values, practices, and beliefs

Quotes from participants

This was one of the best OCON gatherings I've attended. Great sessions and so wonderful to see

How to more effectively design refugee support

so enjoyed the conference. It was rich, informative, inspiring.

Action

OCN 5.0 was a hybrid conference that was attended by participants virtually as well as in person November 7 and 18, 2022. The virtual platform was Zoom Events and the in-person conference host was the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health. There were 202 registered participants who represented 43 different organizations. These organizations represented six diverse sectors including business, community service, government, healthcare, higher education, and education. There were over 50 diverse speakers and moderators who provided distinctive insight from their professional and personal backgrounds including healthcare professionals, state and local government officials, community service leaders, and refugees.

The conference covered the following areas: refugee wellness and integration, the changing structure of resettlement, healing through photovoice, human trafficking awareness, students of refugee backgrounds, women who lead, providing the best care for refugees, community building, and strengthening connections with an opportunity to share, learn, and network.

Symposium Evaluation

Participants' feedback on the conference was documented through an online 15-question survey that was conducted anonymously through email, after the conclusion of the conference. The 27 evaluations collected expressed that the conference improved their ability to deliver services to newcomers. The majority of respondents agreed that the conference theme was timely and relevant and that they were able to identify two new resources and agency connections.