TESTIMONIALS FROM IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS CLIENTS

"I really enjoyed Laura’s training. It was thorough, backed by data, but also had good, real-world examples that help me understand what various English learners go through. I have worked with the immigrant community for 10 years now and still learned a lot from her training, from the educational laws that talk about translation to various programs that already exist to meet the needs of these communities. Laura’s teaching style is well-paced, clear, and anecdotal, which I like."

— Adriana Salcedo, School Social Worker

"I highly recommend Laura as a trainer and resource for supporting teams who would like to learn more about developing partnerships with immigrant and refugee families. Laura’s professional development training on Building Partnerships with Immigrant and Refugee Families for our statewide network of family engagement professionals was excellent. She is extremely well-versed and passionate about this topic, and she took the time to tailor her presentation to our state with important statistics, national resources, and local contacts. The supplemental materials and pre-training videos/articles she provided allowed those at the training to have important, informed discussions about working with immigrant and refugee families in their region. We all walked away with ideas for how to strengthen practices within our organizations."

— Dr. Barbara Boone, Coordinator of the Ohio Family and Community Engagement Network, The Ohio State University

OUR MISSION
Immigrant Connections improves the lives of immigrant children and families by helping educators, social workers, and other professionals better serve this population through training, coaching, and consultative services.

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ENGAGE. EDUCATE. BUILD.

THE PREMIER CHOICE TO HELP YOU MEET THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND ENGLISH LEARNERS IN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR ORGANIZATION.
ABOUT LAURA GARDNER, FOUNDER, IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS

Laura is an experienced educator, social worker, trainer, and consultant in all areas related to working with immigrants, refugees, and English Learners in schools. She specializes in helping schools and school districts build their capacity around immigrant family and community engagement, interpretation and translation services, and equity, as well as socio-emotional support for refugee and immigrant children. Laura has a unique blend of professional experience at the local and national levels in both the immigrant/refugee and family engagement fields.

Laura has nearly 20 years of experience working in public education, refugee resettlement, and social work. While in public education, she worked as a district-level manager for immigrant family and community engagement, as well as a school social worker. Laura also worked for Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services (BRYCS), managing their national technical assistance initiative to federal Refugee School Impact Grantees.

CUSTOMIZED CONSULTING

This specific service is designed to meet your needs! Our areas of expertise include family and community engagement in schools, language access, cultural competency, equity, refugee resettlement, immigrant integration, and mental health. We provide customized solutions to all of our clients. We will analyze, confront, and work together with you to solve your needs. Contact us today to find out how we can help!

IN-PERSON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We approach each opportunity for training and professional development as a partnership. We will discuss the strengths and areas for growth of your school district or organization, as well as the strengths and needs of your teachers, administrators, or other employees.

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We have partnered with English Learner Portal to provide online courses relevant to teachers, administrators, school counselors, social workers, family engagement professionals, and more.

HOW CAN IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS ASSIST YOU?

Immigrant Connections offers assistance in a variety of areas, but here are some examples:

- Working with school districts to improve their family and community engagement efforts, particularly with English Learner/immigrant families
- Helping school districts comply with federal language access laws and develop the infrastructure needed to provide interpretation/translation services
- Helping school districts develop equity and/or cultural proficiency initiatives aimed at “fixing systems” and not “fixing students”
- Working with organizations wishing to partner with school districts but struggling to do so because of a lack of “insider” knowledge
- Assisting Human Resources departments who seek to hire more diverse staff but are not sure how to do so
- Working with agencies who need assistance with program development, publications, or training, particularly from someone who has worked in and with refugee and immigrant communities
- Writing grants for organizations

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF!

See for yourself why Immigrant Connections is the premier choice to help you meet the needs of immigrants, refugees, and English Learners in your school district or organization.