

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Building Sustainable Dreams for a Better Tomorrow





MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Dear Community College Initiative Participants, Alumni, Host Campus Coordinators, Host Families, and Friends in the U.S. and around the world,

Education forms the basis of many positive and life-long relationships, and we at the State Department are committed to supporting educational exchanges with U.S. colleges and universities. Since 2007, CCI has supported over 3,800 international students from 28 countries to study at 82 U.S. community college campuses in 26 states. U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Commission partners continue to support this growing global network of leaders as alumni.

CCI students engage not only in classrooms, but at internships, volunteer sites, and with friendship families. The students not only learn about American culture and society but also form relationships that bring our nations closer together. The CCI program cultivates the foundation of meaningful collaboration that extends far beyond the formal conclusion of the exchange.

CCI highlights the role vocational and technical education plays in addressing global workforce development needs. Worldwide, CCI alumni impact their communities through environmental sustainability projects that protect critical ecosystems and increase food security; workshops that impart knowledge and skills to increase youth employment; media and digital literacy initiatives; entrepreneurial collaborations and startups that contribute to economic development; and innovations in education curriculum development to reach underserved communities.

We hope this publication inspires current students, alumni, and other CCI stakeholders to work together to find solutions to the most pressing issues of our time.

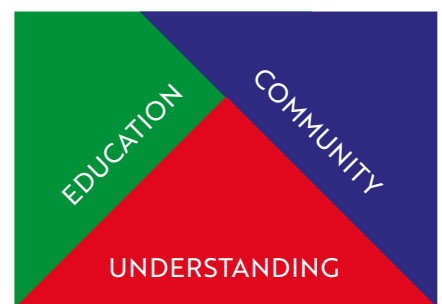
I and my colleagues in the Department look forward to strengthening our CCI community with future cohorts and sustaining active, meaningful connections with alumni.

Best regards,

Kelsi Ward Molowa
Branch Chief

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SINCE 2007
 MORE THAN 80
 COMMUNITY COLLEGES
 HAVE HOSTED OVER 3,800
 PARTICIPANTS FROM
 28 COUNTRIES.





HISTORY OF THE CCI PROGRAM

CCI (originally called the U.S. Community College Summit Initiative Program) was announced in January 2006 in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. University Presidents Summit on Higher Education hosted at the State Department.



In 2007, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) launched the Community College Initiative Program (CCI), bringing students from six countries to study at U.S. community colleges in technical and vocational fields

that included agriculture, business, education, applied engineering, and hospitality. The goal of the program was to offer students quality non-degree academic programs in their fields of study, professional development, employment skills, and first-hand knowledge of American society.

Since the inception of the program, CCI has continued to evolve and respond to global workforce needs, expanding to new countries, fields of study, and partner institutions. Since 2007, more than 80 community colleges have hosted over 3,800 participants from 28 countries, providing opportunities for participants to engage with peers in their host communities by sharing their culture and unique perspectives, and contributing to the

internationalization of U.S. college campuses. When CCI alumni return home, they return with a deeper understanding of U.S. culture and with new skills to help them tackle critical issues in their local communities, thus contributing to the development of their countries.

The CCI Program serves as a catalyst for global workforce development by cultivating a diverse set of skills, experiences, and perspectives among participants, preparing them to thrive in a rapidly changing and interconnected global environment. It continues to evolve in response to emerging global workforce needs, notably in the technology field with the introduction of a semiconductor program for Mexican students that will launch in 2024. The skills and experience gained through this program will contribute to advancing economies and strengthening the global workforce when students return home to share their knowledge and experience.

As the global workforce continues to transform, so does CCI's dedication to providing participants with skills and experiences that are both relevant today and vital for the future.



The skills and experience gained through this program will contribute to advancing economies and strengthening the global workforce when students return home to share their knowledge and experience.





CCI PROGRAM IMPACT

To expand opportunities for underrepresented youth through exchanges.

The CCI Program offers unique chances for underrepresented youth to foster mutual understanding across diverse backgrounds. Participants, including U.S. and international peers, enhance their global perspectives, gain workforce skills, and forge lasting friendships through classroom, campus, and community engagement.

To develop skills and strengthen employability.

CCI participants boost employability by gaining technical and soft skills in classrooms and on campuses. They apply this knowledge in U.S. communities through internships and volunteering, returning home with enhanced competencies for success in their local workforce.

To increase proficiency in English as a springboard to opportunity.

Learning English opens doors to global employment and economic opportunities. CCI participants enhance their language skills, gaining access to information, education, and jobs. As emerging leaders, CCI alumni create a positive impact by networking and communicating professionally in English, elevating their own career prospects and expanding opportunities for their communities.

To benefit U.S. communities.

In the U.S., participants actively contribute to campus and local communities through student government or club leadership roles, energetic participation in student life activities, public presentations, cultural exchanges with friendship families, and volunteering in local organizations.

To foster difference-makers abroad.

CCI alumni, upon returning home, initiate social entrepreneurship ventures, provide language or professional training, and lead volunteer projects, turning their ideas into actionable plans to address local concerns. They also share their unique perspectives of America in communities where they may be the sole individual with firsthand U.S. experience.

To internationalize and promote U.S. community colleges.

Community colleges serve multiple roles in U.S. higher education, offering academic degrees, workforce training, and lifelong learning. The CCI Program enhances international student hosting, contributing to global workforce competence. In U.S. bilateral dialogues, it showcases collaboration opportunities with community colleges, addressing educational and workforce needs worldwide.



INCREASED EMPLOYABILITY



71% of respondents reported that they **secured a better job** after program participation.

After three years, the results increased to 85%.



96% regularly **applied skills** gained in the CCI Program to their work.

After three years, the results increased to 97%.

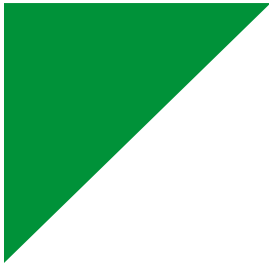
Source: CCI Program Alumni Survey Summary (2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19)



CD-4

College of DuPage





PILLARS OF THE PROGRAM

Current fields of study include agriculture, applied engineering, business management and administration, early childhood education, information technology, media, public safety, and tourism and hospitality management.

Academics: For one academic year, CCI participants complete academic coursework at their U.S. host community college in select CCI Program fields of study and, when possible, pursue professional certificates. Current fields of study include agriculture, applied engineering, business management and administration, early childhood education, information technology, media, public safety, and tourism and hospitality management.

Service Learning: Service learning is a key component of the CCI Program that helps participants integrate into their campus and local communities. CCI students participate in local community service activities with nonprofit organizations, join student groups to practice leadership skills and promote causes they care about, and contribute to large-scale national service events such as the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance.

Internships: CCI participants build hands-on professional experience through internships in local businesses and organizations. Through the application, interview, and participation phases of their internships, participants build their professional skill sets in resume writing, networking, interviewing, and working in the context of U.S. business culture. These experiences help CCI participants explore their academic fields of study and plan for their future careers.

Cultural Exchange: CCI participants learn about American culture and share their cultures with the people they meet through formal and informal activities. Students participate in a weekly "Culture, Society and Institutions" course that includes organized excursions which introduces them to people and organizations in their local U.S. communities. CCI participants also attend local arts and culture events, tour historical sites, visit local schools, and join student and community clubs.

Leadership and Community Action: Throughout their exchange year, CCI participants are encouraged to seek out leadership positions on campus and in their host community. They are also given the opportunity to develop leadership skills through exclusive CCI leadership programming. The CCI Program's mid-year Pathways to Success Program is a consortium-wide leadership program designed to build participant skills in leadership, reflection, and goal setting.

Since 2022, the Community College Consortium has encouraged its CCI participants to develop a community impact project, where they address social, economic, or environmental problems in their host communities. The goal of the project is to help participants develop the skills and knowledge they need to implement their own initiatives upon their return home. By developing a project or community outreach plan during their exchange year in the United States, CCI participants return to their home countries ready to take action and contribute to their home communities.

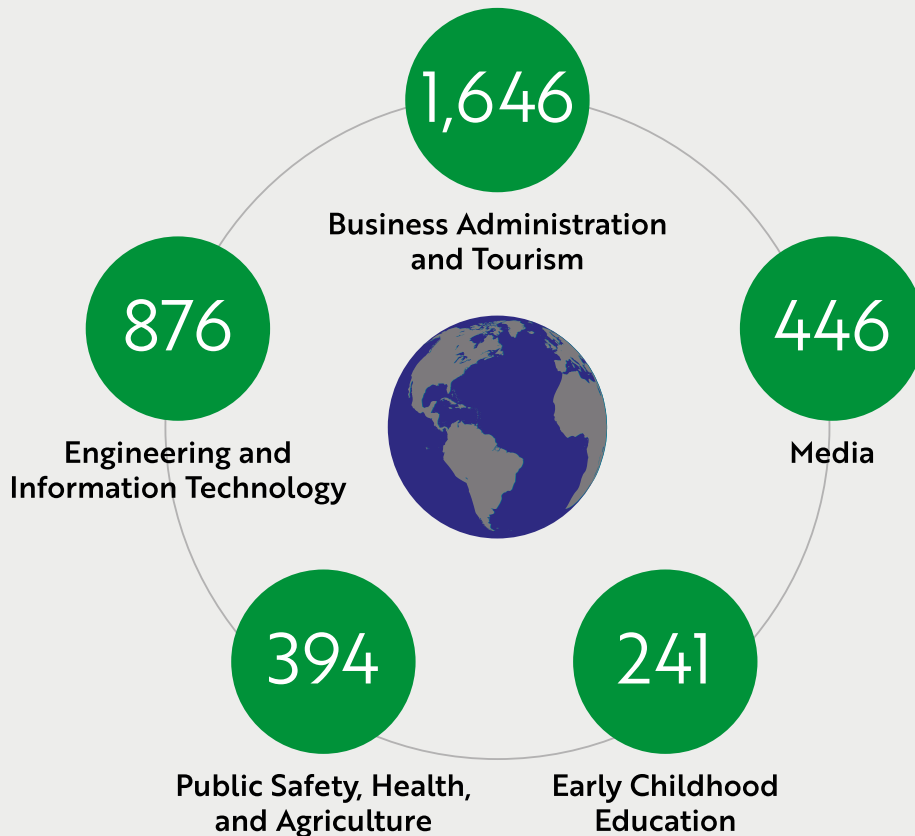
A Fox Valley Technical College Student Volunteering at the Marigold Mile in Appleton, Wisconsin.



PARTICIPANT HISTORY

SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CCI PROGRAM IN 2007,
MORE THAN **3,800 PARTICIPANTS**
FROM **28 COUNTRIES** HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM.

WHAT CCI PARTICIPANTS STUDY

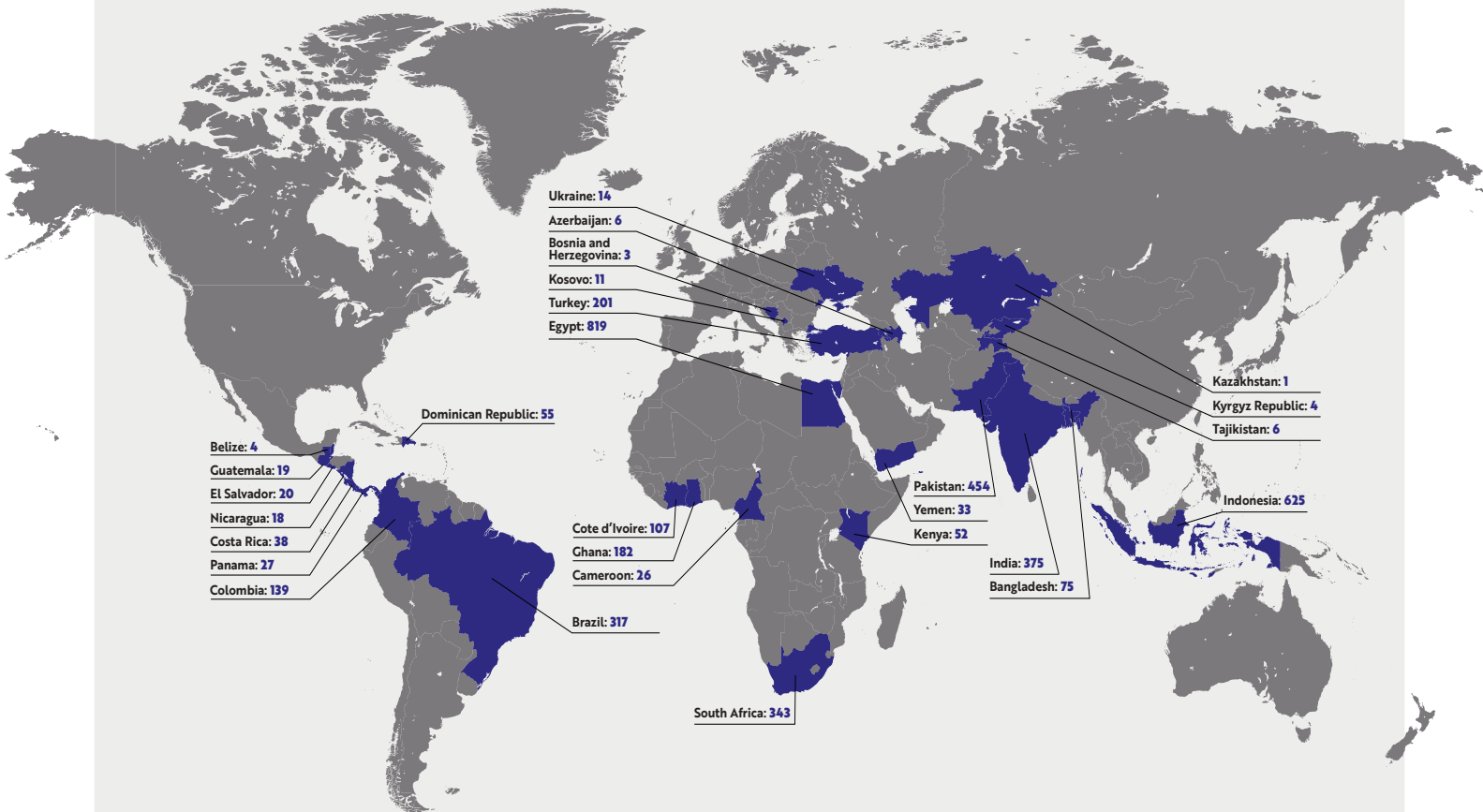


Since 2010 the CCI Program has collected data about the economic and cultural impact that participants make on their host colleges and communities in the United States.

See the 2022-2023 cohort's statistics here: <https://www.nvcc.edu/ccip/stats-2023.html>

*Breakdown based on field of study placement from 2007-2023.

CCI PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY



Indonesia: 543 (+Indonesia – AMINEF: 82)* These numbers represent ECA-supported CCI participants. From 2013-2023, an additional 82 CCI participants from Papua, Indonesia were supported through the AMINEF/PTFI cooperation.

GIVING BACK TO THE U.S.

215,491.86
 Volunteer Hours
 Contributed
 to U.S. Host
 Communities

136,258.53
 Internship
 Hours Served in
 U.S. Companies,
 Organizations,
 and Non-Profits

\$17,656,007
 Contributed to
 U.S. Economy,
 Through Participant
 Volunteer and
 Internship Hours

Calculated by independentsector.org

*Hours and values based on program years 2010-2023



SHAPING FUTURES

How Are CCI Alumni Shaping the Future of...

Workforce Development



Meherun is using her education and skills to give back to her community and educate young people...

Meherun Khatun (India, Northampton Community College, Media, 2018-19) is working as an administrative officer for VA Talks, a virtual assistant company based in West Bengal. Since 2019, she has been working with Hope Kolkata Foundation, a non-profit devoted to the protection and development of underprivileged children who are homeless or dealing with difficult realities. The foundation provides shelter, nutrition, education, medical, health, and life skill training for children. Meherun has worked as a data entry operator and computer teacher for HKF. She is expected to complete her bachelor's degree in computer and information technology at Indira Gandhi National Open University in January 2024. Meherun is using her education and skills to give back to her community and educate young people about computers and technology, which will prepare them for a global workforce that heavily values technological aptitude.

Information Technology



Jonas has proposed, organized, and presented the first international fair at his university and helped students to ease their apprehension about exchange programs.

Jonas Gabriel Ramos da Silva Ataliba (Brazil, Fox Valley Technical College, Engineering, 2022-23) is currently working in the first mobile laboratory for artwork analysis in Latin America developing scientific instrumentation. He is also an undergraduate mechanical engineering student at the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Rio de Janeiro, and he is a volunteer at AIESEC (International Association of Students in Economics and Commercial Sciences). When he attended FVTC, one of Jonas' instructors saw his eagerness to learn about additive manufacturing and introduced him to 3D printing. After returning home and convincing his research coordinator to buy 3D printers, his lab now has two, which they use for research projects. Jonas has already traveled thousands of kilometers with his team to put some of their developed equipment to work. Their goal is to support museums and curators all over the country while developing nuclear cutting-edge technology and techniques. Jonas has also presented his CCI experience to at least 300 hundred high school students under the state and federal educational system. He has proposed, organized, and presented the first international fair at his university and helped students to ease their apprehension about exchange programs. Upon returning home, Jonas has also started a new role at AIESEC, now as a Customer Experience of Incoming Global Volunteer with the goal of coordinating the experience of volunteers all over the world that come to Brazil to support Brazilian NGOs on their projects. With regards to his next endeavors, Jonas said, "I am trying to focus on daily improvements and commitment to develop my community step-by-step. I hope everyone born in the same social class that I was, can one day experience the great feelings and achievements that I did. I am already happy to be able to share my life story with so many people and have the opportunity to make even a small impact in their lives."

SHAPING FUTURES



Jessica created "Being Ivorian" to fight against the crisis of incivility in Cote d'Ivoire.

Inclusive Leadership

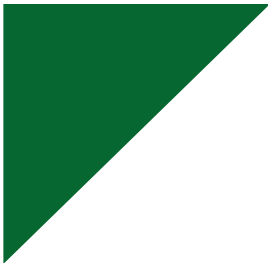
In May 2023, **Jessica Audrey Tiade** (Côte d'Ivoire, Kirkwood Community College, Business Administration, 2017-18) joined the Special Olympics Africa as a Manager for Youth Leadership & Bilingual Support. Jessica is also the current president of the CCI alumni network in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2018, after participating in the CCI Program, she created the association "Being Ivorian" to fight against the crisis of incivility in Côte d'Ivoire and reached thousands of people through awareness on social and environmental citizenship in markets, nurseries, schools and radio and television. Special Olympics has more than 30 accredited programs in Africa addressing the needs of people with intellectual disabilities in the areas of sports, health, and education.

Environmental Sustainability

Vanesa de la Cruz Pavas (Colombia, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Media, 2016-17) recently completed her master's degree in media innovation at the University of Nevada, Reno. Over the summer, she worked on a project proposal that combines science and environmental reporting, data visualization, storytelling, and multimedia with a solutions journalism approach. Her project proposal consists of a series of YouTube mini-documentaries that will broadcast climate change related impacts on diverse vulnerable communities around the world, starting with Medellín, Colombia; Panamá; and locally in the U.S., in Nevada or California. The videos will be both in English and Spanish (with subtitles in the opposing language), and their narrative/storytelling decision will be planned so they can reach younger audiences all over America (North, Central, and South). The story will be built around three 15-minute documentaries featuring scientists and members of the local community.

For the second episode in her series, Vanesa recorded in Panama and focused on the Guna (Kuna) community, an indigenous community located in the San Blas islands of Panama (known as Guna Yala). She had the opportunity to meet with an Angar (an indigenous authority), who hosted Vanesa and showed her the island El Tigre. The islands in which the Guna community lives are expected to disappear by 2050 due to the sea level rise. Vanesa went there to report on it. She was also hired by the College of Science and the School of Journalism at University of Nevada, Reno to go to Panama to record a project on the golden frog that some researchers are developing there, which is how she was able to also record her personal final project there.





DAYS OF SERVICE: CCI VOLUNTEER STORIES

The CCI Program Celebrates Exchange Day: August 7th, 2023

Exchange Day occurs every year on August 7th and aims to raise awareness about the importance of exchange programs. This was the first year the CCI Program commemorated the global holiday under the theme "Eat! Play! Give!", encouraging people to celebrate by sharing their cultures, having fun, and volunteering in their local communities.

Throughout late July and early August, CCI Program participants raised awareness about Exchange Day by taking part in community service.

On July 28th, Sinclair Community College got involved by working in a garden at the Foodbank, Inc. They picked fresh vegetables and aided with clean-up. Valencia College participants partnered with the major's office to host a potluck and have students perform traditional dances from their countries. They also volunteered at Clean the World, an organization that collects hygienic products from hotels and businesses to then repackage and send to developing countries.

The spirit of volunteerism is evident in all these activities, which reinforces the CCI Program's dedication to helping local communities. Cultural exchange, service learning, and community engagement activities also deepen



Sinclair Community College Gardens at the Foodbank, Inc.

mutual understanding of different heritages, customs, and cultural traditions. Through their hard work, CCI participants demonstrate the importance of Exchange Day, which connects a growing circle of individuals from all over the world with the goal of ensuring a prosperous and equitable future for all.



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Valencia College Partnered with the Mayor's Office to Celebrate Exchange Day

CCI Participants Honor September 11 Through Community Service and Engagement

As a yearly tradition, CCI participants volunteer with local organizations, learn about the significance of September 11th, and build connections with community members. The cohort's involvement in honoring September 11th demonstrates three of the program pillars, including service learning, leadership, and cultural exchange. Through volunteering, participants give back to their host communities, learn about American culture while also sharing their own, and develop leadership skills. These community service and engagement activities also allow the students to strengthen ties to their communities and promote cultural diversity, mutual understanding, and respect, all with the goal of helping those in need.

On September 8th, the Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale cohort participated in a beach clean-up at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis, Maryland. The park is located on the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States and the end point of over 150 rivers and streams, making it an important habitat for thousands of species of plants and animals. They also joined the Alexandria cohort at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, and they met with a 9/11 Pentagon survivor, who told his story and the lasting impact of this tragic day.

The Bluegrass Community and Technical College cohort volunteered at the Lexington Roots and Heritage Festival on September 9th. The following day, they attended "The Roots of September 11 and the Changing Face of Terrorism" lecture organized by a veteran organization. They also cleaned and decorated Veterans Park in Lexington, Kentucky.

For their volunteer event, the Northampton cohort participated in the Travis Manion Foundation 9/11 Heroes Run 5K. Students were stationed at water stations and cheered on the runners. They also learned about the impact of 9/11 in a classroom session.



Northern Virginia Community College Students Picked Up Trash at Sandy Point State Park

Through volunteering, participants are able to give back to their host communities, learn about American culture while also sharing their own, and develop leadership skills.



The Bluegrass Community and Technical College Cohort Volunteered at the Lexington Roots and Heritage Festival



The Northampton Cohort Volunteered at the 9-11 Heroes Run

ALUMNI STORIES

Elfis Adu Raises Awareness about Marine Conservation by Educating Youth in His Local Community

Elfis Adu (Indonesia, Entrepreneurship, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, 2018-19) transitioned from the CCI Program in Entrepreneurship at Northern Virginia Community College to a pivotal role as an education officer at Thrive Conservation in December 2021. His focus is on marine conservation, educating the local community about endangered species such as mantas and sea turtles.

Facing challenges like illegal fishing practices, Elfis and Thrive implemented educational programs and partnered with six local elementary schools. They also established community surveillance groups to combat illegal marine activities. Elfis's passion for conservation and community development traces back to his CCI internship at FACETS, inspiring him to establish a community center in Indonesia, providing English education and homework assistance.

The CCI Program significantly influenced Elfis, enabling him to navigate entrepreneurship and apply classroom knowledge to his current role. Recently, Elfis and Thrive collaborated with a local middle school on a conservation



project, aiming to instill environmental responsibility and sustainable practices in the younger generation.

Elfis's work at Thrive is not only crucial for Indonesia's marine life but also reflects his dedication to cultivating a hopeful future through youth education and conservation efforts. Through a harmonious balance of education, community engagement, and sustainable livelihood development, Elfis and Thrive aspire to leave a lasting positive impact on the environment for present and future generations.





Karla Barrera: An Advocate for Education and Community Development

Karla Nicole Barrera (Colombia, Northampton Community College, Early Childhood Education, 2022-23) knew she wanted a career in education ever since she was a child. Her journey culminated in becoming an English kindergarten teacher in 2022, marking what she fondly calls "The first day of the rest of my life."

In 2022, Karla's life took another transformative turn when she joined the CCI Program, delving into Early Childhood Education. The Pathways to Success Program (PSP) became a pivotal moment, igniting motivation as she listened to CCI alumni speakers—a "before and after" experience for her.

Post-CCI, Karla has been making waves in her field. Back in Colombia, she co-founded Edu-K with Eduard Tovar, aiming to address social crises. Their initiatives include free language classes, donations for underserved communities, and projects promoting recycling and reusing solid waste. Building on her community impact project, "A Musical Adventure," which incorporated art, music, and recycling to teach Spanish at Lehigh Valley Academy, Karla launched "Miss Karla to Learn" to teach English and Spanish as foreign languages..

Karla's impactful contributions haven't gone unnoticed. She's received two national awards—one from "The Night of the Best," recognizing leaders in the Colombian Educational System, and another from the Colombian Ministry of National Education for outstanding scores in SaberPro tests. Additionally, she earned the Sol de Aquino Merit

from La Universidad Santo Tomás for being one of the top averages in her field nationwide. A scholarship covering over 50% of her expenses reflects the recognition of her dedication.

As a new CCI alumni, Karla is not just achieving her childhood dream of becoming a teacher; she's also giving back to her community in remarkable ways. Her story serves as an inspiration to children and young people, urging them to step out of their comfort zones and become active leaders for positive change in the world.



How Entrepreneurial Alumnus Pradeep Kumar's Travel Company Creates Learning Opportunities in Delhi

General managers of hotels typically carry business cards rather than toolboxes. However, this was not the case for Pradeep Kumar, an alumnus of the Community College Initiative (CCI) Program, during his internship at the Best Western Lakeway Inn eleven years ago. Studying tourism and hospitality at Whatcom Community College as part of the CCI Program in 2011-12, Pradeep's understanding of leadership expanded as he observed the hotel's general manager actively participating in various aspects of the business, including electrical repairs.

Questioning the manager's hands-on approach, Pradeep was met with a valuable lesson: "A team leader should know all aspects, and we should always lead by example," the manager explained. Taking this insight back to India, Pradeep applied it to his own business, Delhi by Locals, founded in 2016. The company offers themed and customizable tours showcasing Delhi's landmarks, history, culture, and food. Seven years since its inception, Delhi by Locals has achieved notable success, ranking #8 out of 297 food and drink tours in New Delhi on TripAdvisor and winning the 2023 Travelers' Choice Award. Pradeep has also had the pleasure of providing a tour of Nizamuddin for Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Nancy Izzo Jackson in November 2022. In February 2023, Delhi by Locals was chosen to provide a tour of the Red Fort for nine U.S. Government officials, including Senator Mark Warner of Virginia, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, and Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington. The



Delhi by Locals was chosen to provide a tour of the Red Fort for nine U.S. Government officials, including Senator Mark Warner of Virginia, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, and Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington.

“Delhi by Locals has achieved notable success, ranking #8 out of 297 food and drink tours in New Delhi on TripAdvisor and winning the 2023 Travelers' Choice Award.”

senators were very interested to hear his story, and to see how the seeds of his education had grown into a successful business which gives 50% of its profits back to support educational programs in the community.

Pradeep, who worked as a tour guide prior to the CCI Program, credits the program with propelling his career forward. While in the U.S., he absorbed business and life lessons in all his experiences—from the quotidian to the



Pradeep and Learning by Locals Students

extreme. After being dissatisfied with a camera purchased at Costco, for example, he was surprised to discover the company's 90-day refund policy. "I could not believe that and from there I learnt a good business cannot be successful without its customer service. I do everything to make sure my clients are happy," Pradeep said.

He also tried skydiving, snowboarding, and flying a plane in the U.S. Those adventures, he said, made him more comfortable with the risk involved in starting his own business.

Paying it forward, Pradeep co-founded Learning by Locals in 2017, an NGO funded by Delhi by Locals' profits. The organization provides English and computer classes, workshops on social issues, organizes field trips, and assists youth in connecting to job and internship networks. Students aged 14 and above seeking guidance, learning through teamwork, and desiring a supportive journey are welcome to join Learning by Locals, though recently the NGO began working with younger children

too. Other CCI alumni, including co-founder Lalit Saini (India, Houston Community College, Media, 2018-19) and Alka Sharma (India, Business Administration, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, 2018-19), have played crucial roles in the NGO since its inception, exemplifying the positive impact of the program.

In November 2023, State Department Branch Chief Kelsi Ward met with Pradeep and several CCI alumni during a networking session in Delhi. Pradeep and members of Learning by Locals had the opportunity to share more about their initiatives. In Sanjay Colony, Okhla, the center currently offers after-school classes for over 100 students 7 days a week, and aims to assist learners in refining their abilities across diverse fields such as English, computer science, theatre, music, and photography. Learning by Locals continues to provide a space where students can not only dream of a better future, but also achieve positive results to reach their goals.



CLASS NOTES

2010-11

Hady Hubaydillah (Indonesia, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Information Technology) is working as a project manager for a technology company called Migo.

Sarah Dawood (Pakistan, Miami Dade College, Business Administration) is the Vice President of TPL Insurance.

2011-12

Ramesh Kumar (India, Highline Community College, Information Technology) founded PRITHAK Foundation, an NGO that supports community youths.

Prodencia Mbanwei (Cameroon, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Applied Health) is working as the Regional Chief of Bureau for Partnership and Training of Health Personnel at the Regional Delegation of Public Health in the Southwest region of Cameroon.

2012-13

Arun Sharma (India, Scottsdale Community College, Media) is working as a freelance cinematographer and photographer.

Muhammad Mahdy (Indonesia, City College of San Francisco, Media) is a marketing communication officer for Global Jaya School.

2013-14

Susana Marin Arango (Colombia, Houston Community College, Business Administration) is working for IDB Invest as an investment management associate officer.

Edna Essel (Ghana, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Tourism and Hospitality) is the head administrator for a property appraisal and investment consulting firm in Ghana.

2014-15

Muhammad Ferdaus (Bangladesh, Bunker Hill Community College, Public Safety) started a position in April as Director of CARSHA (Cell for Adaptation, Resilience, Security, and Humanitarian Assistance) at Brac University.

Ahmed Teleba (Egypt, College of DuPage, Engineering) is an IT administrator & cyber security engineer for the IFS – Islamic Foundation.

2015-16

Louisa Addio (Ghana, Miami Dade College, Tourism and Hospitality) is working as a senior technician at Ho Technical University in Ghana.

Gamze Sayat (Turkey, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Business Administration) is a sales support representative for DB Schenker, a global logistics solutions and supply chain management company based in Essen, Germany.

2016-17

Md Emrul Mehedi (Bangladesh, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Business Management) received a full scholarship to attend the full-time, two-year MBA program at Foster School Business at the University of Washington, which he started in August.

Rajesh Shanmugan (India, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Information Technology) started a volunteer organization in Bangalore, India called Educating Indian Hearts.

2017-18

Gomolemo Mohapi (South Africa, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Information Technology) is working as a Cloud Advocate for Microsoft.

Maria Eiman (Pakistan, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Early Childhood Education) is a Civil Society Officer for Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.

2018-19

Khadija Ali (Egypt, College of DuPage, Business Management) was named a 2023 Pan-African Youth Ambassador for Internet Governance (PAYAIG) Fellow.

Elias Alcantara Sanchez (Dominican Republic, Valencia College, Engineering) is an ad operations specialist at VDX.tv, a global video advertising technology company.

2019-20

Luisa Dahianna Trujillo Lopez (Colombia, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Business Administration) received her Bachelor of Modern Languages from the University of Caldas.

Sourav Ranjan (India, Kirkwood Community College, Agriculture) has been accepted into an MBA-HR (Master of Business Administration in Human Resources) program at Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies in Mumbai, India.

2020-21

Jannatul Tanshey (Bangladesh, Kirkwood Community College, Public Safety) recently obtained her master's degree in criminology from Birmingham City University.

Oktavia Adzani (Indonesia, Northampton Community College, Early Childhood Education) is an assistant preschool teacher for MindChamps.

2021-22

Nzuzo Makhunga (South Africa, Sinclair Community College, Agriculture) is working as a Production Supervisor at The Farm Nearby, an urban farming company in Durban, South Africa.

Michael Dos Santos Neves (Brazil, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Information Technology) started a remote position with DocuSign as a course developer.

2022-23

Saidmuhammad Asoev (Tajikistan, College of DuPage, Media) has attended multiple exchange programs since completing the CCI Program, and he is working on his Instagram travel blog to educate people about studying abroad.

Sanket Singh (India, Mesa Community College, Business Administration) joined the Prithak Foundation as the new Center Manager.

The 2018-19 Northern Virginia Community College Cohort Celebrates Commencement



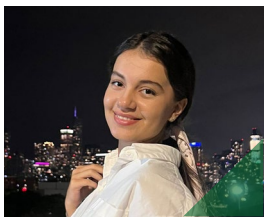
TESTIMONIALS

PARTICIPANTS



Zilungile Ngubo, South Africa, Fox Valley Technical College, Business Administration, 2023-24

“I took classes that I would've never thought of taking before, law classes for example, and it is an amazing experience.”



Nuray Fatalizade, Azerbaijan, College of DuPage, Media, 2023-24

“I have had the privilege of sharing my own culture with new

friends and learning about theirs in return.”



Ikhsan Misbahuddin, Indonesia, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Early Childhood Education, 2023-24

“This program has been invaluable in preparing me to make a positive impact on the education of young learners in my home country, Indonesia.”



Ernestina Akanwom, Ghana, Kirkwood Community College, Tourism and Hospitality, 2023-24

“Being a part of the CCI 2023-24 cohort is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me.”

ALUMNI



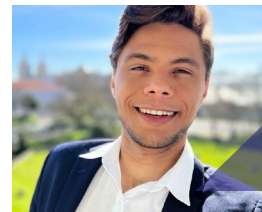
Moreblessing Tshuma, South Africa, Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Information Technology, 2020-21

“I will forever be grateful for the opportunity; it really changed my life and I have grown so much in my career, education, culture, and traveling perspective.”



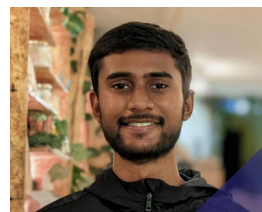
Jesika Rozella, Indonesia, Kirkwood Community College, Business Administration, 2018-19

“It opened my world. I gained knowledge, experience, and friendship which I will cherish for a lifetime.”



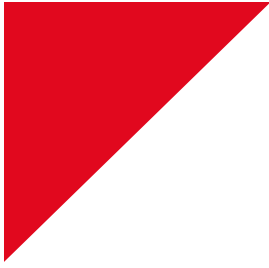
Marcos Ferreira Nascimento Bisneto, Brazil, Scottsdale Community College, Information Technology, 2016-17

“After the experience, I became a more understanding, communicative person, and much more curious to learn different things, with a huge desire to know different cultures and explore the world.”



Aswin Rengarajan, India, Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale, Business Administration, 2019-20

“It really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to stay, learn, and grow alongside people from different parts of the world.”



PRINCIPAL AND COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. Department of State

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) sponsors and manages the program, with funding appropriated by Congress, under authority granted by the Fulbright-Hays Act. ECA administers exchanges with the assistance of cooperating U.S. non-profit organizations. Around the world, ECA works in partnership with U.S. Embassies and binational Fulbright Commissions to administer its suite of exchange programs.

U.S. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions U.S.

Embassies recruit, nominate, and support CCI participants. The Public Affairs Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer assumes primary responsibility for working with ECA. In a few countries, ECA works with a binational Fulbright Commission to recruit, nominate, and support CCI participants. (The CCI awards, prestigious in their own right, are not Fulbright awards.)

Cooperating Organizations

ECA enters into agreements with U.S. non-profit organizations to administer the Community College Initiative Program in the United States and abroad. Over the past 16 years, CCI students have attended community colleges that were part of five host consortia, each selected through a competitive process.

The Community College Consortium (CCC), led by Northern Virginia Community College, currently administers the CCI Program. Formed in 2009, CCC is an association of geographically diverse, primarily urban and suburban community colleges that have international exchange experience. NOVA has administered the CCI Program since 2010.

The Northwest Community College Initiative Program (NWCCI), a Washington State consortium of three community colleges led by Edmonds Community College of Lynnwood, Washington, administered seven CCI cohorts between 2008 and 2016.

IREX, a non-profit organization focused on international education and development, led a community college consortium that hosted CCI students from 2013 to 2016.

Community Colleges for International Development, a nationwide consortium of community colleges, administered the CCI Program under an agreement with Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 2007 to 2012.

The California Community Colleges Initiative for Egypt Program administered a three-year consortium of host campuses for the CCI Program from 2009 to 2011. The consortium included the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, and the California Education and Export Training Consortium.



The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is located Across from the Harry S. Truman Building in Washington, D.C.

Supporting Partnerships

The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) and P.T. Freeport Indonesia (PTFI)

Through a partnership between the American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) and P.T. Freeport Indonesia (PTFI), qualified residents from Papua and Papua Barat provinces in Indonesia are supported to participate in the CCI Program. This collaboration provides workforce development opportunities for emerging leaders who will benefit their communities upon return home.



The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) sponsors and manages the program.

CCI PROGRAM HOST COLLEGES

ALABAMA

Gadsden State Community College, Gadsden

ARIZONA

Mesa Community College, Mesa
Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale

CALIFORNIA

American River College (Los Rios), Sacramento
Butte College, Oroville
City College of San Francisco, San Francisco
College of the Desert, Palm Desert
El Camino College, Torrance
Glendale College, Glendale
Irvine Valley College, Irvine
Long Beach City College, Long Beach
Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles
Moreno Valley College, Moreno Valley
Ohlone Community College, Fremont
Reedley College, Reedley
Riverside City College, Riverside
Sacramento City College, Sacramento
Saddleback College, Mission Viejo
Santa Ana College, Santa Ana
Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa
Shasta Community College, Redding
West Valley Mission College, Saratoga

COLORADO

Otero Junior College, La Junta

FLORIDA

Daytona State College, Daytona Beach
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa
Miami Dade College-Kendall, Miami
Miami Dade College-Wolfson, Miami
Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee
Valencia College, Orlando

HAWAII

Kapiolani Community College, Honolulu
Leeward Community College, Pearl City

ILLINOIS

College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn
College of Lake County, Grayslake
Heartland Community College, Normal
Parkland College, Champaign

IOWA

Eastern Iowa Community College, Muscatine
Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids
Muscatine Community College, Muscatine
Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City

KANSAS

Johnson County Community College, Kansas City

KENTUCKY

Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Lexington

MARYLAND

Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Community College, New Bedford
Bunker Hill Community College, Boston
Cape Cod Community College, West Barnstable

MINNESOTA

Central Lakes College, Brainerd

MISSOURI

Crowder College, Neosho
St. Louis Community College, St. Louis

NEBRASKA

Southeast Community College, Lincoln

NEW YORK

Jamestown Community College, Jamestown
Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden

NORTH CAROLINA

Davidson County Community College, Thomasville
Johnston Community College, Smithfield

OHIO

Columbus State Community College, Columbus
Lorain County Community College, Elyria
Owens Community College, Toledo
Sinclair Community College, Dayton

PENNSYLVANIA

Northampton Community College, Bethlehem

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville Technical College, Greenville
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Orangeburg

TENNESSEE

Roane State Community College, Harriman

TEXAS

Brookhaven College, Farmers Branch
El Centro College, Dallas
Houston Community College, Houston
Lone Star Community College, Houston
Richland College, Dallas

UTAH

Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City
Snow College, Ephraim

VIRGINIA

Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria
Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale

WASHINGTON

Edmonds Community College, Lynnwood
Everett Community College, Everett
Highline College, Des Moines
Pierce College, Lakewood
Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon
Spokane Community College, Spokane
Whatcom Community College, Bellingham

WISCONSIN

Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton
Madison Area Technical College, Madison
Northcentral Technical College, Wausau
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay
Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee

Note

This list encompasses all institutions that've hosted CCI students since 2007.



TESTIMONIALS FROM U.S. HOST CAMPUSES

“ Bluegrass Community and Technical College considers the CCI Program an excellent opportunity to promote diversity and enhance international education across our institutional community. We extend complete support of our college as a key participant in the Community College Initiative Program and look forward to hosting these remarkable students and serving the goals of the United States Department of State.”

**Greg Feeney, Acting President and CEO
Bluegrass Community and Technical College**

“ The CCI Program and the strength of the consortium approach under NOVA’s collaborative work builds stronger inclusive educational opportunities, internationalization, and facilitates mutual understanding. It is clear the CCI Program students contribute greatly to diversity on our campus and in the Fox Valley community. Amongst many contributions, the participants help community members and domestic students learn more about their countries, culture, and often establish meaningful, long-lasting relationships.”

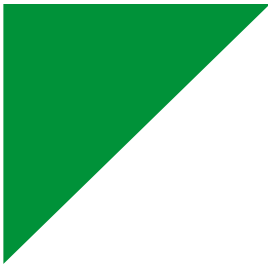
**Christopher J. Matheny, President
Fox Valley Technical College**

“ The opportunity to interact and engage with CCI students is providing our students with needed exposure to other countries and cultures. It greatly helps our students to broaden their knowledge of the world, better preparing them to participate more fully in the global economy. Being a part of the consortium strengthens our collaborative work. The CCI Program provides CCI students with a once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity, and it also builds mutual understanding for both the CCI students and the Sinclair and Dayton communities.”

**Steven L. Johnson, President and CEO
Sinclair Community College**

“ In the past seven years, Valencia College has had the honor of hosting over 100 CCI participants. The program has left a lasting impression on students, faculty, staff, and the local community. We have appreciated their diverse perspectives and the meaningful intercultural conversations that have been held in classrooms. We believe that this program contributes to our campus internationalization efforts by giving our community the opportunity to engage in learning experiences that help them to enhance their intercultural skills and global perspectives.”

**Kathleen Plinske, President
Valencia College**



ALUMNI RESOURCES

EXCHANGE ALUMNI WEBSITE

Be sure to visit the Exchange Alumni website offered to you through the U.S. Department of State. The website shares alumni news, hosts online events, and provides a series of resources to help alumni connect, collaborate, and develop themselves and their projects | exchangealumni.state.gov.

CCI PROGRAM WEBSITE & BLOG

The CCI Program website is administered by Northern Virginia Community College | www.nvcc.edu/ccip

The CCI webpage provides resources to facilitate alumni engagement across networking platforms, to build personal and professional skills, and to inspire CCI alumni with the stories of other program participants.

Don't forget to check out the official CCI Program blog! Interested in being featured? Submit your story on our website or email ccip@nvcc.edu. We want to hear from you! In the meantime, check out the latest stories at <https://blogs.nvcc.edu/ci/>

AMA (AMERICAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION)

The CCI Program partners with AMA to provide FREE classes and certificate tracks to CCI alumni. Take advantage of the 79 courses and 25 certificate tracks offered to you. Sign up TODAY! Visit the link below or reach out to ccip@nvcc.edu with questions: <https://www.amanet.org/nvcc>

CCI LIVE: VIRTUAL ALUMNI WEBINARS

CCI LIVE: Virtual Events for CCI Alumni is a series of virtual webinar and webcast events designed to inspire ongoing personal and professional development of CCI alumni. Designed by CCI administrators and facilitated by Learning Times, these events are moderated, interactive forums with open discussion featuring CCI alumni as guest speakers. Previous CCI LIVE events have focused on topics such as global leadership, social entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange. Check Upcoming Events for a list of future CCI LIVE events. CCI alumni can also log in to the Archives to revisit past CCI LIVE recorded webinars.

THE OFFICIAL CCI ALUMNI SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS

Are you a member of the official CCI Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn groups? Join today to become a part of your alumni network and find us on Instagram and YouTube!



Community College Initiative Forum



CCI Program Alumni

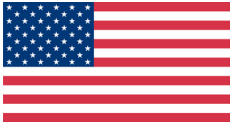


CCI Program Instagram



CCI Program YouTube





NOVA
Northern Virginia
Community College