

# Washington English Center

Improving the lives of immigrants through education.



## FY2016 ANNUAL REPORT

A Catalogue for Philanthropy Nonprofit Organization

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Washington, DC 20008

[www.washingtonenglish.org](http://www.washingtonenglish.org)



## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

It is a great privilege for me to serve as Chair of the Board of the Washington English Center. Our organization offers a unique opportunity to match motivated students seeking to integrate into American society with dedicated staff and volunteers who provide a premier educational program for them.

FY16 was a year of continued success and expansion. We were pleased to welcome a new Executive Director to our helm: Gabriela Mossi, who came to us from the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and has long been actively engaged in community activities in our area.

Our Board of Directors finalized a new strategic plan for FY17-20, with the assistance of MMP Associates, a consulting firm with deep experience in guiding nonprofit educational institutions. Our four implementation plans laid out important steps to ensure long-term sustainability, a consistently high-quality program, increased visibility in the community and a strong and vibrant Board to lead us in our future endeavors.

The ongoing support of our Associate Board of enthusiastic young teachers augmented the efforts of our Directors through activities aimed at building community and raising funds among our volunteers. In addition, our Academic Advisory Board, made up of highly respected ESL professionals in the DC area, continued to provide valuable advice to our Board and staff.

After nearly a quarter century of service to Washington's immigrant community, our reputation for excellence continues. We thank you for your commitment to our program. We couldn't succeed without your vital support now and into the future.

Stephanie Lawson

*There are more than 350 teachers and tutors each term*





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I was honored to have the opportunity to join the Washington English Center community in the spring of 2016 to build upon an impressive record of service to immigrants in the DC metropolitan area. I look forward to ensuring that our programs continue to serve as stepping stones to a better life for immigrants and their families.

This Annual Report gives our board and staff the opportunity to thank our entire community while updating you on our accomplishments and progress. Our donors and volunteers have helped make our successes possible. We are grateful to have you as partners. We deeply appreciate your financial contributions and the time you dedicate to us. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to our mission.

**Gabriela Mossi**

## OUR HISTORY

Washington English Center (WEC), founded in 1993 as Language ETC, provides English literacy and computer training as well as workforce development to low-income adult immigrants. For 23 years, our outstanding corps of volunteer teachers has offered immigrants to the Washington, DC, area the critical language skills they need to build a better future for themselves and their families.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide excellent and affordable English classes and other workforce programs to adult immigrants using volunteer teachers.

## OUR CORE VALUES

We believe that:

- Speaking English is the key to an improved quality of life for immigrants.
- English language proficiency is vital to acquiring other skills.
- Volunteer teachers and tutors are our most critical assets in helping our students achieve their goals.
- The combination of English language instruction and volunteer participation fosters improved understanding between immigrants and the community at large.

*Tuition and book costs are discounted and scholarships are available so all can attend, regardless of ability to pay.*



## OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

### English as a Second Language (ESL) classes

- ESL classes, 11 levels ranging from Basic through Advanced Plus
- Weekday mornings, evenings, and weekend classes to accommodate student schedules
- Three 12-week terms in the fall, winter and spring
- A six-week summer term offering multi-level conversation classes

### Conversation and Writing Clubs

- Conversation and writing classes to advance student skills
- Free to all registered ESL students

### Computer Literacy Program

- A computer Language Lab enabling students to develop valuable computer skills as they improve their English
- Unlimited access for all ESL students

### One-on-One Tutoring

- Free individual tutoring available to any student who needs extra help

### Citizenship Classes

- Classes available to prepare students who wish to become U.S. citizens

## NEW for 2016

- Weekday classes increased from two to four days a week, offering more intensive ESL training.
- Thanks to a donation from the Philip L. Graham Fund, both computer labs were outfitted with 30 new computers and new flooring.
- An additional Conversation Club was formed at the Tenleytown Library.



*Washington English Center, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is one of the largest nonprofit ESL providers in the Washington, D.C. area.*



## OUR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

WEC's employment services program grew both in terms of content and reach in FY 2016. We now have a dedicated staff member who spearheads outreach to area employers and offers workshops on resume writing, job interview fundamentals, online job applications, job fair preparation, and entrepreneurship. Volunteer job coaches, through both online and in-person sessions, help students explore career options and write resumes designed to reach American employers.



### Nesmely

One of our students, Nesmely, arrived alone in the U.S. several years ago. Although she had the equivalent of a BS degree in Engineering from Venezuela, she spoke minimal English, which precluded her from finding work in almost any field. She enrolled at Washington English Center in Level 2 in the fall of 2015. She advanced to Level 4 and actively participated in employment workshops and job coaching sessions. She was hired in 2016 to work in an on-site day care center at a major Washington financial institution.

## **NEW** for 2016

- WEC hired a dedicated Coordinator of Employment Services.
- Over 100 students participated in WEC's workforce readiness program.
- Three volunteer job coaches worked one-on-one with students.
- Twenty-eight students found jobs.

# OUR STUDENTS

## STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

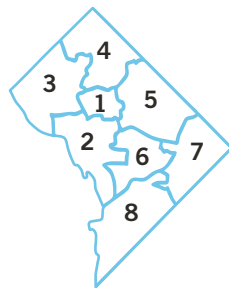
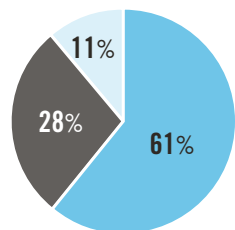
- 96% were more confident in speaking English
- 91% indicated the Computer Lab was helpful
- 99% would recommend WEC to their friends
- 66% said it helped them get a job
- 81% felt it helped them perform better at their current job

## STUDENT DATA

- 2460 students enrolled
- Students came from 78 countries
- 75% of FY 2015 students re-enrolled
- 82% advancement rate of students who advanced to next ESL level

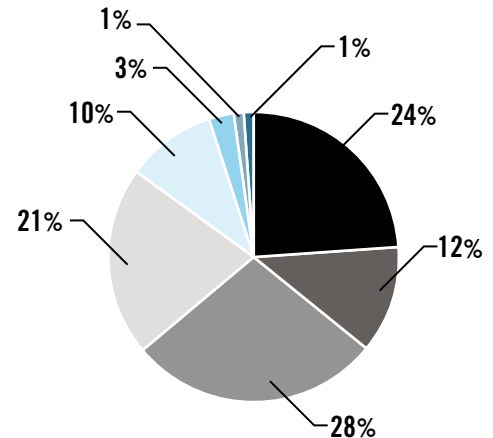
### WHERE THEY LIVE

- DC: 61%
- Maryland: 28%
- Virginia: 11%

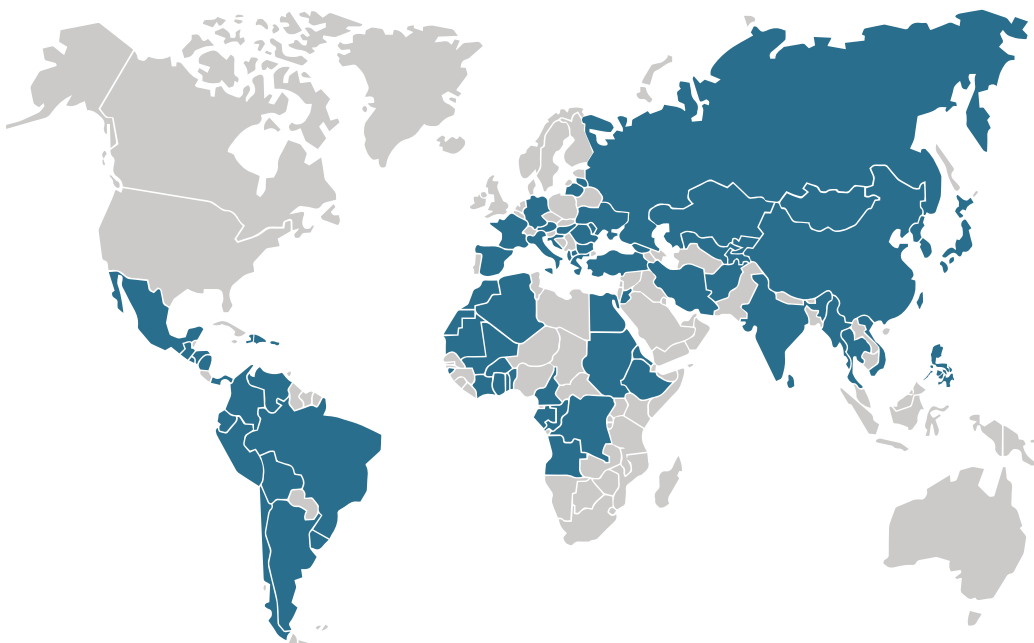


### WHERE IN D.C.

- Ward 1: 24%
- Ward 2: 12%
- Ward 3: 28%
- Ward 4: 21%
- Ward 5: 10%
- Ward 6: 3%
- Ward 7: 1%
- Ward 8: 1%

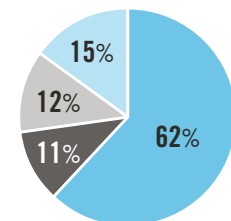


*Our students come from 78 different countries*



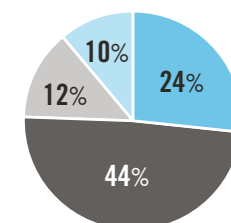
### ETHNICITY

- Latino 62%
- Asian/Middle Eastern 11%
- African 12%
- European/Eastern European 15%



### STUDENT AGE

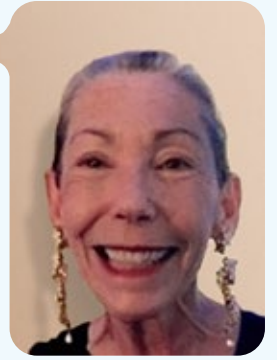
- 18-29 24%
- 30-45 44%
- 46-60 12%
- 60+ 10%



## TEACHER TESTIMONIAL

From students to staff, WEC is a rewarding experience for the mind and the heart. Yes, the work is hard if you take it seriously – as should be. But the students are so motivated, hard-working and eager that preparation and teaching are pure pleasure. I also think the WEC model is terrific for students and teach-

ers alike because it supports a volunteer base with a solid infrastructure of curriculum, syllabus and lesson materials, so you're ready to go from day one. Topping it off is a professional staff that's always there to offer advice and solve problems. I could not be more happy and grateful about teaching at WEC.



Bella



- *650 volunteer teachers and tutors in FY2016*
- *Over 80% of volunteers return to teach a second term*

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Washington English Center utilizes a unique team teaching method. Our volunteer teachers and tutors range from millennials working on Capitol Hill to retired professionals from every field. Using WEC's team-teaching model, instructors work in 2-person teams, so that students in the week-day and evening classes have 8 teachers in a 4-day week. Many of our teachers have been volunteering at WEC for years.

- *41,000 volunteer hours valued at \$855,000*
- *Teacher training sessions on lesson planning, pronunciation, writing, and multi-level classes*

## NEW for 2016

- American University offered special training sessions for our volunteers.
- Staff participated in outreach programs to recruit additional volunteers, by speaking at Rotary Club and Teaching House.

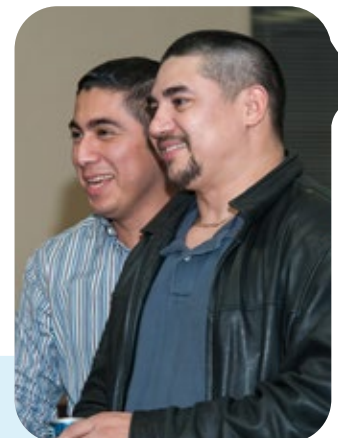
## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Associate Board worked with local merchants to host fundraisers introducing young professionals to our program. For example, a fundraiser at MISSION DUPONT helped pay for new school desks.
- Washington English Center hosted Community Service Fairs connecting students with area partners to familiarize immigrants with housing, legal assistance, health insurance and a variety of other available services.



## STUDENT OUTREACH

Staff and volunteers hosted a booth at the opening of Kalorama Park to recruit potential students to Washington English Center.



**Washington English Center**  
Improving the lives of immigrants through education.

What a great morning spent with these trainers from IBM! Washington English staff learned so much about organizing and using social media. Thank you to all!

## SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

In 2016, a communications intern expanded Washington English Center's visibility with followers on social media.

 Facebook **1963**

 Instagram **173**

 Twitter **253**

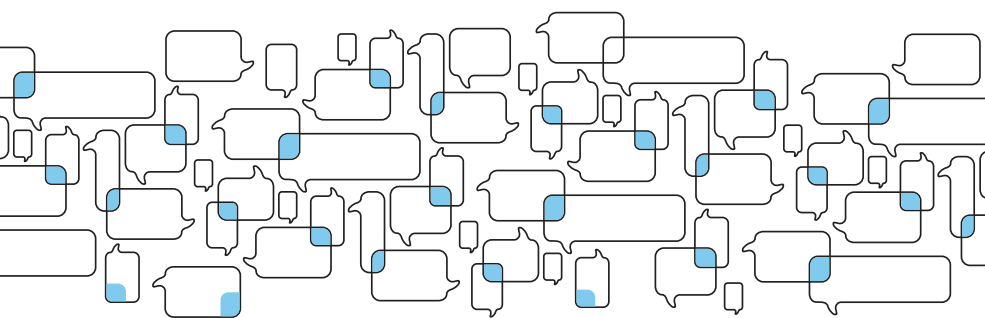
 LinkedIn **905**



## Financial Statements

### Major Institutional Supporters 2016

Barbara Notz-Hines Foundation  
 Clark Charitable Foundation  
 Cora and John H. Davis Foundation  
 Crimsonbridge Foundation  
 Holy Trinity Church  
 Inter-American Development Bank  
 Jovid Foundation  
 Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs  
 Meyer Foundation  
 Office of the State Superintendent of Education  
 Philip L. Graham Fund  
 United Planning Organization

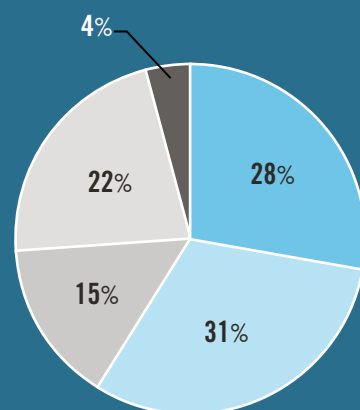


Many thanks to José Manuel Zuleta, a professional graphic designer from Bolivia and a graduate of our Advanced Plus class. With help from WEC, Jose found employment, and then enthusiastically volunteered his services to design this Annual Report.

[www.zuletadesign.com](http://www.zuletadesign.com)



### Washington English Center Revenues and Expenses 2016

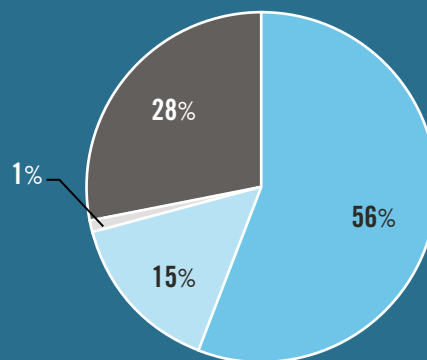


#### Revenue

Tuition	\$260,833
Government Grants	\$287,241
Foundation and other grants	\$140,476
Individual Contributions*	\$200,551
Other Income**	\$ 39,396
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$928,497</b>

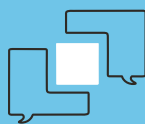
\* includes event income

\*\* includes in-kind facilities contributions of \$35,902 in 2016



#### Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$507,888
Rent	\$139,794
Event Expenses	\$ 8,004
Other Expenses	\$257,718
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$913,404</b>



## WASHINGTON ENGLISH CENTER LEADERSHIP

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and the stewardship of our Board of Directors, Associate Board and Academic Advisory Board

### STAFF LEADERSHIP

**Gabriela Mossi**

*Executive Director*

**Clodoaldo Lopez**

*Office Manager,  
Weekdays*

**Claudia Belloso**

*Office Manager,  
Weekends*

**Yadilka Márquez**

*Coordinator of  
Employment Services*

**Mary Spanarkel**

*Director of Curriculum  
and Instruction*

**Elizabeth Madjlesi**

*Director of Volunteer  
Programs*

**Louise Godley**

*Weekday Volunteer  
Coordinator*

**Baker Osman**

*Weekend Volunteer  
Coordinator*

### WEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Lawson (Chair), Diane Mooney (Vice Chair), Jennifer Browning (Treasurer), Susan Hattan (Secretary), Charles Dittrich, Johanna Mendelson Forman, Robin Hanerfeld, Sarah Hoagland, Jeff Kelley, Joan Kerrigan, Joseph Khoury, Bonnie Loeb, Thea Mason, Jocelyn Samuels, Karen Sandler, Liz Werner, Natalie Wexler, Louise Wides

### WEC ASSOCIATE BOARD

Jason McMahon (Chair), Alex Lescroart (Vice Chair), Katherine Rogers (Secretary), Alyssa Campagnoni, Kaitlyn Carson, Laura Iglesias, Emily Naber, Patrick Urda, Alia Waly, Will Warren

### WEC ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

Brock Brady (Chair), Mary Ann Florez, Nina Liakos, Ashley Lipps, Donna Moss, Emily Naber, Sherry Steely

# WASHINGTON ENGLISH CENTER

*(July 2015 – June 2016)*

Washington English Center (WEC) thanks the individual donors listed below for their generous support in Fiscal Year 2016. As the following report reflects, WEC relies on gifts large and small to provide services to the immigrant community.

The following list recognizes only those who donated between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

## **\$10,000 and over**

Ms. Amy Berger and Mr. Glen Nager  
Ms. Susan Hattan and Mr. Steve Kittrell  
Ms. Sarah M. Hoagland

## **\$5000 - \$9999**

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Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lawson  
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Ms. Elizabeth Werner and Mr. Carl Kravitz

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Mr. Paul Leleck  
Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Loeb  
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Ms. Diane Mooney and Mr. Frank Pietrantonio  
Ms. Jocelyn Samuels and Mr. Thomas Olson

## **\$1000 – \$2499**

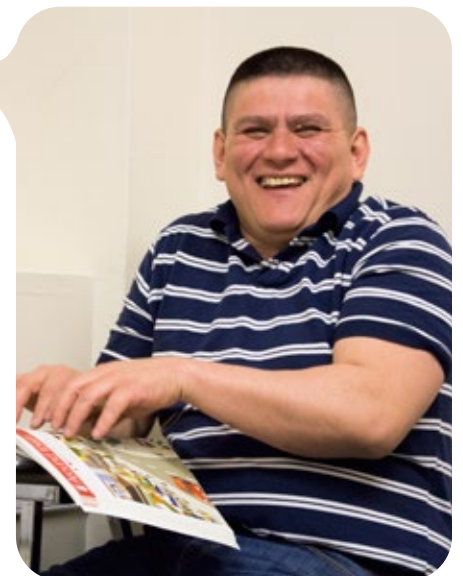
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Mr. and Mrs. Antoine Van Agtmael  
Ms. Natalie Wexler and Mr. James Feldman  
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Mr. Bryan Wright

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 Dr. Daniel Yergin and Dr. Angela Stent

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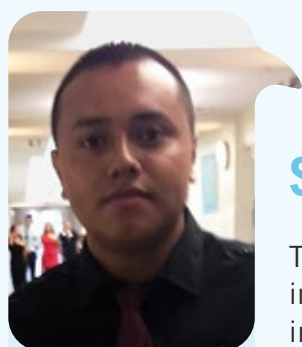
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 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zengerle



## STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

The Washington English Center is very important to me. I came to the school in 2007 after I came from Guatemala to live with my father in DC. I started in the Basic A class, but then I stopped. I came back to Basic A again in 2009. Then I stayed at the school until 2012 and studied all the levels until 4B. Then I left again to start my GED. After I got my GED, I came back in 2014 to take the Advanced class. Now, I am leaving

again to start Montgomery College. I want to study business administration and maybe international if I can go on to a college like the University of Maryland. This is a good country in which to study. It was hard in Guatemala, and I could not even learn how to multiply. Before, I was working all the time at housekeeping jobs. Now I have a full-time job as an engineer assistant. I don't like just staying at home; I want to keep studying!

Alex

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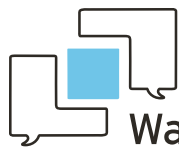


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**Washington English Center**  
Improving the lives of immigrants through education.

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