

For Immediate Release

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WEC Honors Trinity Washington University as its 2023 *Champion for Immigrants*

Washington, D.C. - Washington English Center (WEC), a nonprofit providing affordable English-language instruction and workforce programs to adult immigrants using volunteers, is pleased to announce the selection of **Trinity Washington University** as the recipient of its **2023 *Champion for Immigrants*** award.

Founded in 1897 as Trinity College in Washington, D.C., by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, [Trinity](#) was the nation's first Catholic liberal arts college for women. Today, Trinity enrolls about 2,000 students across four academic schools, and its top majors include nursing, biology and biochemistry, health services, education, counseling, psychology, business, communication and criminal justice.

Years ago, the University began an intentional shift in its mission to recruit students from neighborhoods across D.C. where higher education wasn't traditionally an option. Trinity has been particularly welcoming to DREAMers, those brought to the U.S. as young children, whose futures have been rendered uncertain by political battles at the national level.

"Trinity is honored to receive WEC's 2023 *Champion for Immigrants Award*," said Trinity's President Patricia McGuire. "We are proud of Trinity's work in support of our undocumented students, and pleased that this work has gained recognition. We appreciate the excellent work of WEC to support all those who deserve welcome and hospitality in our country."

Working with and among other local educational institutions like Trinity, WEC advances its mission of providing affordable English-language instruction and workforce programs to immigrants through the use of over 750 volunteers annually. In the 30 years since its founding in 1993, WEC has welcomed tens of thousands of students from over 120 countries, including waves of refugees escaping political strife, economic hardship, and natural disasters. Throughout the years, WEC has maintained a vision of embracing immigrants from anywhere in the world and supporting them in achieving their goals.

"When students reach the higher levels of our ESOL classes, they begin planning pathways to their post-WEC futures. Some are looking for careers; and many are looking for an on-ramp to higher education," said WEC's Executive Director, John Odenwelder. "Over the years, Trinity has striven to create a space where women of diverse races and ethnicities—many of them immigrants or children of immigrants—can thrive. How fitting that, at this celebration of three decades of preparing students for new futures here in the U.S., our honoree is a local institution where WEC students may continue their journeys of life-long learning."

The **2023 Champion for Immigrants** award will be presented to Trinity during WEC's spring event, *Lighting Paths to the Future Through Language*, which takes place Wednesday, May 10th, from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Planet Word Museum.

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Washington English Center (WEC) provides affordable English-language instruction and workforce programs to adult immigrants using volunteers. It advances its mission by offering classes both online and in-person, supporting students around DC, the country, and the world.

Learn more at www.washingtonenglish.org.