



Build Connections

Socio-Cultural Workshops for Immigrant and International Students at George Brown College

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A 360 Degree Review of Student Needs & Community Service Integration

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Presentation Outline

The George Brown Context

- College profile
- Programs and services for immigrant and international students at George Brown College

Build Connections Program

- Project background and Overview
- Outcomes
- Moving Forward

Snapshot: George Brown College

- Located in downtown Toronto – 5 campuses
- 28,800+ Full time Students; 61,300+ Continuing Ed. Students

Of the George Brown College students who completed the 2013-14 key performance indicator (KPI) survey:

- 44% were born outside of Canada
- 33% self-identify as having a first language other than English
- 51% had some post-secondary education before their current program
- 12% are International students

Each academic School has a different mix of the above:

- 68% of students in the School of **Financial Services** were born outside Canada - 57% self-identify as ESL
- 60% of students in the **School of Nursing** were born outside Canada - 49% self-identify as ESL

Programs and Services for Immigrant & International Students

School of Immigrant & Transitional Education

- Entry Advising Services, CHOICES Program
- Canadian Immigrant Integration Program (CIIP)
- PLAR Office
- Bridging Programs
- Build Connections – socio-cultural workshops
- Mentoring – TREIC Mentoring Partnership
- Workplace communications – OSLT, Language for the Workplace

School of English as a Second Language (ESL)

- English for Academic Purposes; 800-850 students
- IELTS Testing Centre

International Centre

- Admissions, orientation and advising for international students

Build Connections Program

- Workshops for Immigrant and International Students on Canadian culture, Canadian classroom culture, and culture of the workplace.
 - Attempt to address soft skills gaps for foreign born students.
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- **Learning in the Canadian Classroom: Strategies for Success in Post-Secondary Education**
 - **Understanding Canada**
 - **Workplace Communications: Speak Confidently and Make a Good First Impression**
 - **Employer Expectations: Strategies for Success in the Canadian Workplace**
 - **Networking: Manage Professional Conversations to Improve your Competitive Edge**
 - **Understanding the Banking System in Canada**

Outcomes and Implications

2014-2015 Data

- 33 workshops delivered
- 465 students served: 59% international, 41% immigrant
- 39% in Canada for less than 6 months, 34% less than 2 years
- High satisfaction: 92% ranked workshops as excellent or good

Lessons Learned – Moving Forward

- Assess student needs through working closely with academic programs
- Target high need programs
- Link to co-op/field placements
- Required?
- Student mix
- Follow-up surveys with students and stakeholders
- Funding model



Thank you

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