

# Workforce Development: Challenges, Opportunities & Resources

Opportunities to Grow Maine's Workforce  
The Immigrant Population  
EDCM – June 16, 2017



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Portland Adult Education

# 1,470 ECONOMISTS AGREE

- Immigrants bring broad economic benefit to the US
- Immigration is one of America's significant competitive advantages in the global economy
- The benefits that immigration brings to society far outweigh their costs
- Immigration brings diverse skill sets that keep our workforce flexible, help companies grow, and increase the productivity of American workers

An Open Letter from 1,470 Economists on Immigration to Congressional Leaders  
New American Economy

# Changing Demographics



- 14,096 foreign born people have moved to Maine since 2000
- 1,329,192 Maine's Population
- 44,968 foreign born
- 50% of foreign born people in Maine live within 40 miles of Portland
- More than 15% of Portland is foreign born

# Who are our New Mainer Community Members?

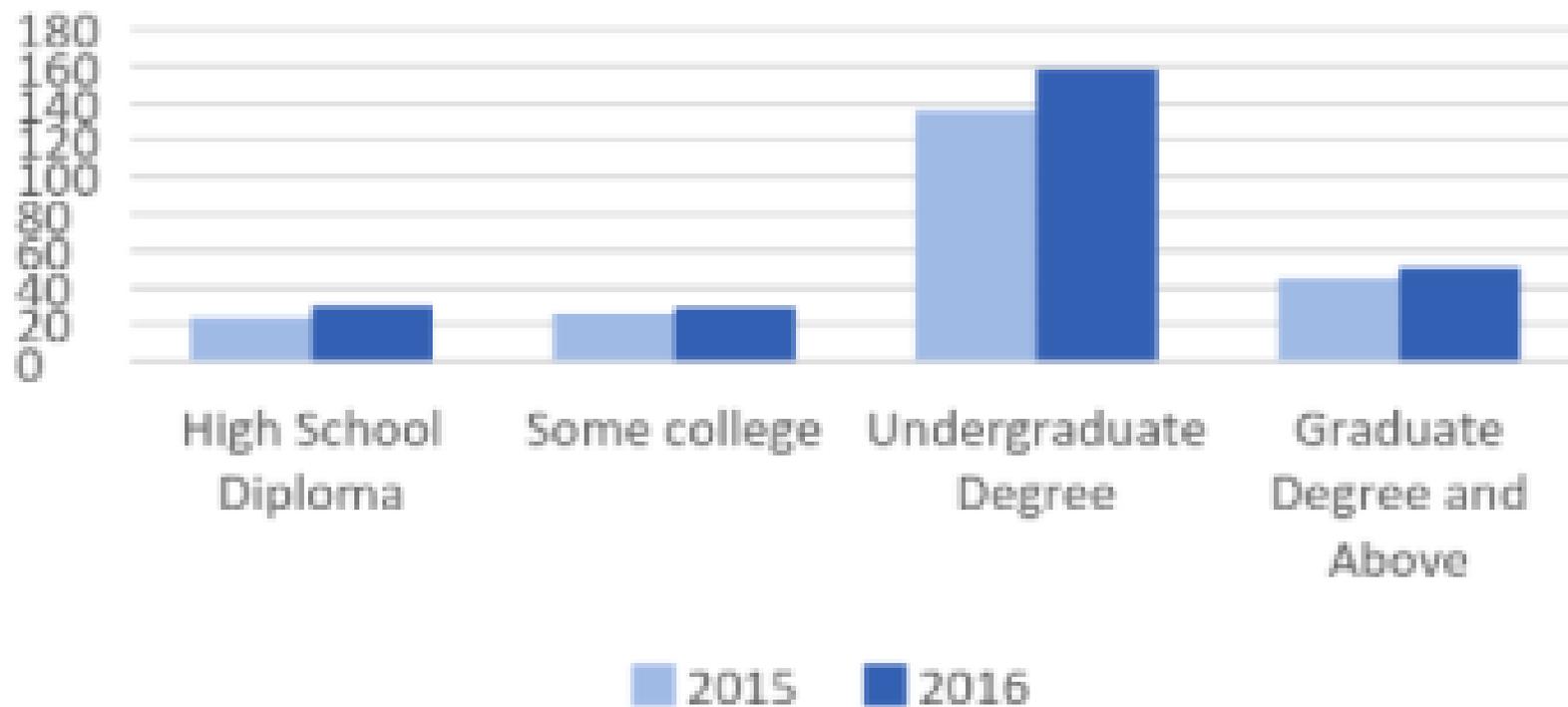


- Primary Refugees
- Asylum Seekers
- Granted Asylees
- Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders)

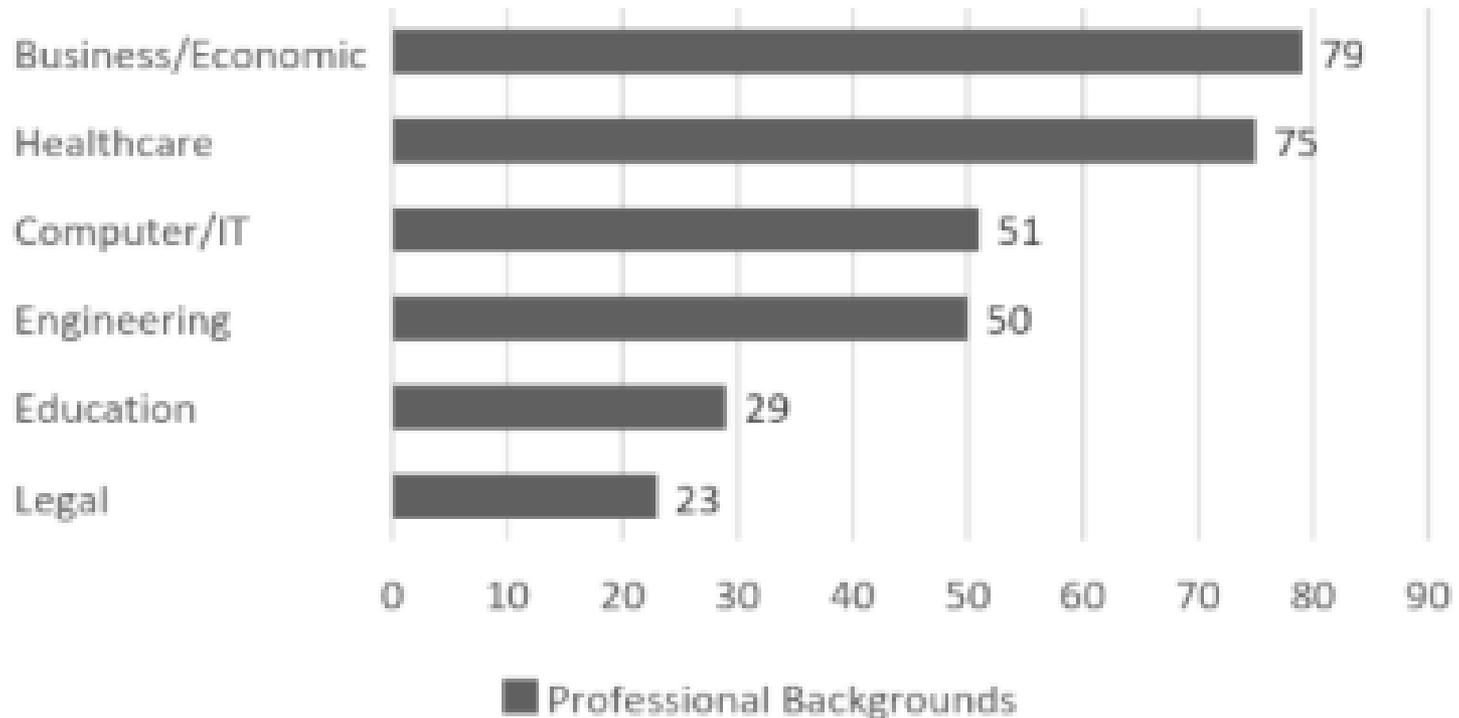
# Maine's Immigrant Population - The Hidden Talent

- Foreign born and foreign trained professionals who currently reside in Maine; many of whom have experience in professional fields

## Educational Level Among NMRC Career Advising Participants



## 2016 NMRC Participants/Students by Most Frequent Professional Backgrounds



# Barriers

- Need for immediate “survival job” income to support family
- Lack of career information and guidance
- Language fluency
- Lack of professional networks
- Lack of culturally appropriate U.S. job search skills
- Technical skill gaps
- Age or stage in career
- Discrimination
- Family obligations
- Professional licensing
- Lack of U.S. work experience
- Employer concerns about visa sponsorships or lack of context for foreign education and experience

IMPRINT: Talent is Ready:  
Promising Practices for Helping  
Immigrant Professionals Establish  
Their American Careers



# New Mainers Resource Center

## Mission:

- To support Maine's economic development by meeting employers' demands for a skilled and culturally diverse workforce

## Vision:

- To grow Maine's economy by fully utilizing the skills of foreign trained professionals
- To help employers hire and retain qualified workers for a skilled and diverse workforce
- To help Maine's immigrants and refugees overcome barriers and re-enter their professions



## New Mainers Resource Center Who We Are - What We Do

- NMRC is a program within Portland Adult Education serving area immigrants and refugees
- Works with employers to help meet their workforce needs
- Provides case management and advice to skilled professionals, guidance regarding credential evaluation, intensive classes focused on job readiness skills, contextualized English classes, networking and professional support groups, workshops, connections to training or other resources and community partners and other offerings

# Integrating Immigrants Into Maine's Economy

- National Resources
  - Global Network
  - Welcoming America
  - New American Economy
  - Migration Policy Institute
- Local or Municipal Resources
  - Welcome Dayton (Ohio)
  - Aurora Colorado – Office of international and Immigrant Affairs
  - Louisville, KY – Office of Globalization

# Questions?

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