



# WELCOME BACK

Fall 2003  
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## Welcome Back Staff

Brenda Storey  
*Director*

Naomi Marcus  
*Educational Case Manager*

Sylvia Moreno  
*Educational Case Manager*

Amelia M. Martínez C.  
*Management Assistant*

Araceli Gutierrez  
*Program Assistant*

**To make an appointment with an educational case manager or to confirm class or workshop registration, please contact:**

**(415) 561-1833**

City College of San Francisco  
John Adams Campus  
1860 Hayes Street, Room 221  
San Francisco CA 94117

## Fall 2003 Office Hours

Monday  
CLOSED

Tuesday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 2 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 2 to 3 p.m.

Thursday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 2 to 8 p.m.

Friday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 2 to 5 p.m.

Saturday  
9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Issue 9

### My Memory

My story is a little typical for all immigrants, but it has some individual coloration. When I came to the United States, the most important question was: what can I do here, and how can I advance my potential? I was 33 years old, when most people are still in good shape, and can do everything with energy and enthusiasm. I was a physician in my country, but mostly like a research physician. I was doing a technician part of my job in medicine. After meeting with some colleagues in the United States, I decided to become an ultrasound technician. This type of job was mostly close to my previous occupation.

The life in the new country was not so easy to me. I had to go to work and take care of my family, while at the same time preparing myself for the future profession. After analyses of many different schools with sonography programs, I found the best school in Richmond. The Richmond School of Allied Health Sciences was very popular, with a good reputation and serious program that has enough time to deeply study the new materials. Also, it is sponsored by Kaiser, which was very important to me, as an employee of this organization.

Having a previous rich experience in medicine, and a job in a lab at Kaiser, I was hoping for the fast entrance in the school. It didn't go as I

planned; I didn't pass the interview and got rejected. I was very confused why I didn't become a student there and what was the problem? Too many questions but no answers, and nobody could help me. My last decision was to call right to the school, and have conversation with the manager. It was very difficult for me to make that call, because it was opposite of my culture. Of course the manager couldn't remember me from all the applications, but she suggested making a call to the Welcome Back Center to Naomi Marcus who knew my native language and could be a help to me.

Meeting with Naomi was very important. I never met anybody like Naomi so kind and friendly. She met with me many time and tried to understand my situation. Showed me my mistakes, prepared me to the new interview and recommended to attend the lectures at the Welcome Back Center. It was very helpful for me to understand the structure of health care organizations in the United States, and learn how to apply my previous experience in medicine. I was very appreciative of all of the people of the Welcome Back Center for their real help, for their moral support and enthusiasm. They gave me a chance to believe more in my potential, and to be a student in school. My dreams came true.

In my opinion we need more centers like this not only in San Francisco, but also in different cities too like Sacramento where I am currently living among a very fast growing population of intelligent people and immigrants. For all of the people who only began the new career in the United States, I recommend don't waste any time and visit the Welcome Back Center. And good luck to everyone. *Elena Alexander, Welcome Back Participant.*

### Mi Recuerdo

Mi historia es un poco típica de la de todos los inmigrantes, pero tiene su sabor individual. Yo vine a los Estados Unidos, la pregunta mas importante era: ¿Que puedo hacer aquí, y como puedo avanzar en mi carrera? Yo tenía 33 años, cuando la mayoría de personas todavía están en buenas condiciones, y pueden hacer todo con energía y fuerzas. Yo era un médico en mi país, pero mas como médico investigador. Yo estaba haciendo una parte técnica de mi trabajo en medicina. Después de encontrarme con unos colegas en los Estados Unidos, decidí ser un técnico en ultrasonido. Esta clase de trabajo era parecido a lo que hacia en mi trabajo previo.

La vida en un país nuevo no fue tan fácil para mí. Yo tenia que trabajar y cuidar de mi familia, mientras me

# HEALTH CAREERS FAIR



**Thursday September 25, 2003—6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

City College of San Francisco  
John Adams Campus (Masonic Avenue & Hayes Street)  
1860 Hayes Street

**Room—To Be Announced**  
San Francisco CA 94117-1220

You will have the opportunity to personally meet with representatives of health career programs, to discuss **some** of the following career options:

Master's in Public Health  
Master's in Biomedical Lab Science  
Cardiovascular Technician  
EKG Technician  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Pharmacy Technician

Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Radiation Oncology Technology  
Community Health Worker  
Drug & Alcohol Counselor  
HIV/STD Prevention Educator  
Medical Interpreter

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Health Program Directors and Educators to learn MORE about other Health Careers!

If you are interested in attending, please contact (415) 561-1833 or send an e-mail to [amartin@ccsf.edu](mailto:amartin@ccsf.edu) to reserve a space.

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## Mi Recuerdo... (cont.)

preparaba al mismo tiempo para mi futura profesión. Después de analizar varias escuelas con programas de sonografía, encontré la mejor escuela en Richmond. *The Richmond School of Allied Health Sciences* era muy popular, con una buena reputación y programa serio, que da el tiempo suficiente para estudiar los nuevos materiales. También, es patrocinado por Kaiser, el cual era importante para mí, como una empleada de esa organización.

Teniendo bastante experiencia en medicina, y un trabajo en un laboratorio en Kaiser, yo esperaba entrar rápidamente al programa. No salió como yo había planeado; no pase la entrevista y no fui aceptada. Yo estaba bien confundida del porque no me aceptaron como estudiante y cual era el problema? Demasiadas preguntas sin respuestas, y nadie me podía ayudar. Mi última decisión fue llamar a la escuela directamente, y tener una conversación con la persona encargada. Fue muy difícil para mí hacer esa llamada, porque era lo opuesto de mi cultura. Claro que la persona encargada no se acordaba de todos los aplicantes, pero sugirió hacer una llamada a Naomi Marcus del Welcome Back Center que hablaba mi idioma y me podía ayudar.

Reunirme con Naomi era muy importante para mí. Yo nunca había conocido a alguien como Naomi tan cariñosa y amable. Ella se reunió varias veces conmigo y trato de entender mi situación. Me señaló mis errores, me preparo para nuevas entrevistas y recomendó que tomara los cursos de Welcome Back. Era importante para mí entender la estructura del sistema de salud de Estados Unidos, y aprender como aplicar mi previa experiencia médica. Yo aprecie mucho toda la ayuda que me ofreció el Welcome Back Center, su apoyo moral y entusiasmo. Ellos me dieron una oportunidad de creer más en mi potencial y ser una estudiante en mi escuela. Mis sueños se hicieron realidad.

En mi opinión necesitamos mas centros como estos no solamente en San Francisco, pero también en diferente ciudades como Sacramento donde al momento estoy viviendo entre una población que esta rápidamente creciendo con personas inteligentes e inmigrantes. Para todos aquellos que apenas acaban de empezar una carrera en los Estados Unidos, yo recomiendo que no pierdan tiempo y visiten el Welcome Back Center. Y buena suerte a todos.

*Elena Alexander,  
Participante del Welcome Back Center*

## Welcome Back Center Library Check-out Policy

We are pleased to see the great number of requests for books from our library. In order for everyone to have a fair chance at borrowing a book, we are implementing a three book maximum check-out policy. You will be able to keep books for two weeks and you can renew them for two more weeks as long as no one else is waiting to use the book.

If you have books that are now late, please return them or call us to let us know you still have them.



## Fall 2003 Courses

*English Courses at JVS Open to everyone at all levels*

- Beginning VESL  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Class offered in 3-week modules.  
- Focus on Speaking and Listening at beginning level.
- Intermediate VESL  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Class offered in 3-week modules.  
- Focus on Speaking and Listening at intermediate level.
- High Intermediate VESL  
Monday - Thursday:  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Class offered in 5-week modules.  
- Focus on workplace communication.

Course level is determined by the JVS English placement test, which is offered every other week. Classes are open to new enrollees through the first week of each module. If you are interested in these classes, please contact Tony Albert at (415) 782-6276

More Welcome Back  
Info . . .

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www.e-welcomeback.org



The San Francisco Welcome Back Center is sponsored by City College of San Francisco and San Francisco State University through the Community Health Works of San Francisco, a joint program of the two institutions, and by the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Health Occupation Resource Center.

#### Mission Statement

"To build a bridge between the pool of internationally trained health workers living in California and the need for linguistically and culturally competent health services in underserved communities."

## LECTURE AND CLASSES COMING SOON...!



### Residency Training in the US for International Medical Graduates "The Facts"

Learn the key elements of applying for medical residency programs in the U.S. This lecture is presented by Dr. Amir Sweha, Director of Medical Education, Director, Family Practice Residency Program, at Mercy Healthcare Sacramento.

Space is limited to 35 participants. PLEASE NOTE: This event will take place September 16, 2003 from 7:00 PM—9:30 PM at **San Francisco State University**, 1600 Holloway Ave., Library Basement Room AV36, San Francisco, CA 94132. To reserve this session, please contact the Welcome Back Center at (415) 561-1833 to make your reservation. When you leave a message, please spell your name and leave a telephone number. Welcome Back Center staff will mail a confirmation to you.

### Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System \*

If you are interested in enrolling in the next series of courses for the Introduction to the US Health Care System, please call the Welcome Back Center at (415) 561-1833. If you leave a voicemail message, please speak slowly, spell your first and last name, and leave a telephone number to return your call.

These courses are taught at CCSF John Adams Campus in English, requiring an intermediate English skill level. These courses are very popular and fill up quickly. Please see CCSF Fall 2003 Schedule or visit [www.ccsf.edu](http://www.ccsf.edu) to view the schedule on-line

**HLTH 5410—Organization of Health Services—Saturdays, September 6 & 13, 9am-1pm**

**HLTH 5420—Public Health & Society—Saturdays, October 4 & 11, 9am-1pm**

**HLTH 5430—Health Professions & Practice—Saturdays, November 1 & 8, 9am-1pm**

\* certificate awarded upon completion