



The Pennsylvania State University  
1 Campus Drive  
Mont Alto, PA 17237-9799

717-749-6000  
montalto.psu.edu

Peggy Gillespie  
Family Diversity Projects  
P.O. Box 1246  
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

March 16, 2018

Dear Peggy:

I'm writing to thank you again for sending us *Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees*. The exhibit was very well received by students, faculty, and staff, as well as by the surrounding community. It was even featured on local television and mentioned in other local media outlets.

We kicked the month off with an opening reception at the library, where the exhibit was displayed. The reception featured a drop-in workshop on using Ancestry.com to trace genealogy and an oral history video project in which visitors spoke about their own families' immigration histories. It was extremely well-attended, and the response to the exhibit was enthusiastic.

Over the course of the month, students visited the exhibit in conjunction with classes in disciplines including Human Development and Family Studies, Occupational Therapy, English, Music, and Honors. Students "loved the experience," which they called "eye opening," and faculty appreciated "the opportunity to embed it in [my] course."

In addition, we worked on publicity with Building Our Pride in Chambersburg (BOPiC), a community organization in the area, and as a result of that outreach had a number of visitors from off campus come to the exhibit. Finally, we structured our February Campus Symposium around the immigrant and refugee theme, hosting a family who fled Syria and now lives in Chambersburg to talk about their experiences.

*Building Bridges* was a valuable experience for our campus in terms of the educational experience for students, the enrichment opportunity for faculty, and the connections and publicity it provided to the larger community. I am grateful to you for your help in making it possible.

Yours,

Kira Hamman  
Faculty in Mathematics  
Honors Program Coordinator  
Penn State Mont Alto