**Description:** The Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center is a sponsored work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. The SSJ Welcome Center is staffed by 4 Sisters of Saint Joseph, who live and work at the center, in addition to 2 full time lay-employees. They have a history of teaching in Philadelphia, serving the arriving immigrant populations of Italians, Irish, Polish, and Germans, in schools including Epiphany, Stella Maris, Nativity BVM, Saint Anne’s, Visitation BVM, and Ascension of Our Lord. It is this spirit that led them to respond to the needs of today’s immigrant community in Philadelphia by opening the SSJ Welcome Center, located on Allegheny Avenue in Kensington, in 2003.

**What we offer:**

**English:** From one-on-one tutoring to a more traditional classroom structure we offer classes in a variety of levels starting from beginner survival to advanced conversation. Each year we build a class schedule based around the needs of the students. There is no set course catalog. Our focus is mostly on speaking and listening with an emphasis on real-world skills, however as students progress we integrate reading and writing.

**Citizenship:** Our Citizenship classes help students who have submitted their application for naturalization to prepare for the interview. Classes cover a variety of topics including American Civics and History, reviewing information on the application, pronunciation, interview expectations, and other important topics.

**Computer Skills:** In this beginner class students learn the basics of computers including setting up and using an email account, searching for information online, and writing a letter and resume on Microsoft Word.

**Student Role:** Volunteers can choose to teach English as a Second Language, Computer Skills,
or Citizenship Test Preparation, in the morning, afternoon or evening.

**Unique Features:** The SSJ Welcome Center is interested in comprehensive immigration reform, protecting families from being split up due to deportation, and expanding the current refugee acceptance policies.

**Orientation / Requirements:**
More information on how to complete these clearances is available at [www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents](http://www.sju.edu/servicelearningstudents) and at Placement Awareness Training.

Updated 8/30/17