How do people get involved?

- Individuals are referred to NAAN by community partners, the Department of Workforce Services, and resettlement organizations.

- The program began in September 2009 and provides individual assessments for new arriving populations who have received their education and training outside of the USA.

- The individual assessment identifies the educational tools and experiences that will enable community members, particularly those from immigrant communities, how to more effectively access higher education.

- The Network is developing new partnerships throughout the University and the community.

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NAAN’s mission is to provide greater access to higher education and employment through campus-community partnerships. Our partners are committed to improving and maintaining partnerships with a focus on access to education and training that will result in professional networks and employment.
Partnership Description

The New American Academic Network (NAAN) is a partnership between the University of Utah, University Neighborhood Partners, the University of Utah International Center, the Department of Workforce Services and resettlement organizations of Utah.

The goals of the partnership are to connect individuals of immigrant and refugee background with higher education, creating opportunities for them to return to school and/or employment. Many new arriving populations resettle in Utah with education and training from their native country; however, due to the circumstances that preceded resettlement, many individuals arrive without the proper credentials to enter higher education or a professional level of employment.

The Department of Workforce Services is partnering with the University of Utah to assist these individuals in gaining additional educational and experiences that will allow them to re-enter their professions. Funding to support individuals in this program is provided by the Department Workforce Service and may be used for tuition assistance, stipends, internships, training, testing, research, teaching assistantships, and other experiences and opportunities that assist participants with gaining education and the professional skills needed to re-enter their professions or begin new ones.

Partners work collaboratively to implement the following goals & services:

- Academic consulting
- Information and referral
- Access to higher education
- Access to professional information & networks
- Guest speakers
- Information regarding preparatory courses: GMAT, GRE, LSAT, TOEFL, & USML
- Internships
- Guest lecture/speaker
- Information regarding evaluation services

NAAN Steering Committee Responsibilities:
The New American Academic Network (NAAN) steering committee is responsible for guiding the partnership and developing relationships and resources that assist the academic services for the NAAN participants. The steering committee is made up of representatives of the University of Utah, the Department of Workforce Services, and the International Rescue Committee.

Our Collaborative Partners

Photo courtesy of Samantha Borstadt

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