

Mary O. Barton

Summary of Qualifications

- Community engagement and adult education leader with nearly 20 years of experience supporting immigrant and multilingual communities through education, workforce transition, and community-based services.
 - Experienced in program design, transition advising, and systems coordination for adult learners across literacy, GED, college, and career pathways.
 - Strong record of building partnerships across educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, workforce agencies, and community groups, including partnerships with faith-based and community organizations.
 - Experience identifying and reducing barriers to access for immigrant, multilingual, and underserved residents navigating education, workforce, and community support systems.
 - Committed to inclusive community-building, intercultural understanding, and strengthening pathways to opportunity and belonging across diverse communities.
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Professional Experience

Howard Community College – English Language Center, Columbia, MD

ELC Student Success Manager (2017– July 2026)

ELC Intake, Assessment Specialist & Transitions Counselor (2007–2017)

- Led intake, assessment, and placement systems and supervised registration team ensuring consistent advising and placement practices for adult immigrant learners.
 - Proposed and developed a Skilled Immigrant Program supporting internationally trained professionals seeking career re-entry in the United States, in collaboration with college and community partners.
 - Designed and facilitated transition workshops and provided individualized advising to support adult English learners across literacy, GED, college, and workforce/career pathways.
 - Built partnerships with public schools, community organizations, workforce agencies, and nonprofit partners to support immigrant and multilingual learners.
 - Developed a Language Access Plan (LAP) to improve equity and access for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.
 - Supported students in navigating community resources and services to address barriers to persistence and success.
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Luminus (formerly FIRN), Columbia, MD

Volunteer Coordinator & Literacy Program Manager (2006–2007)

- Provided leadership for volunteer coordination and adult ESL literacy programming serving immigrant and refugee communities in Howard County.

- Recruited, onboarded, and trained volunteers and coordinated assignments across office support roles, ESL tutoring, and ESL program support, with ESL tutoring delivered in partnership with Grace Community Church.
 - Assessed adult ESL learners and matched them with volunteer tutors based on language needs and learning goals.
 - Supported outreach, volunteer engagement, and community representation efforts across programs and organizational initiatives.
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Observ, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Staff Coordinator (2001–2005)

- Managed recruitment, training, and scheduling of event staff for a large-scale public venue operation.
 - Strengthened onboarding and retention processes and supported day-to-day operational coordination in a high-volume environment.
 - Resolved staffing and service issues in a fast-paced customer-facing setting.
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Young Life, Newark, DE & New Providence, NJ

Area Director (1988–1997)

- Provided leadership for faith-based youth ministry programs and volunteer teams serving middle and high school students across multiple school communities.
 - Recruited, trained, and mentored staff and volunteers to support relational outreach, small group programming, and weekly youth activities.
 - Built partnerships with schools, churches, parents, and community leaders to support youth engagement, mentoring, and holistic personal development grounded in faith-based values.
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Education

- Master of Divinity, Fuller Theological Seminary
 - Spiritual Director Training, Vincentian Formation Program
 - B.S. Business Administration, Towson University
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Community Engagement

- Skilled Immigrant Task Force, Maryland Department of Labor (Member)
- Board Member, Association of Community Services (Chair, Education Committee), 2015–2018
- Board Member, Luminus (formerly FIRN), 2011–2015
- Howard County Ethnic Minority Roundtable (Member/Chair roles)
- Community engagement and informal advocacy supporting immigrant and underserved families in navigating education, social services, and community resources in Howard County.