Fall 2026



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A Note From Allison

Dear Carlos Rosario School Community and Friends,

This fall, we proudly welcomed over 2,000+ learners to the Carlos Rosario School as we opened our doors for the 2026-27 school year. In a time of uncertainty for so many adult learners in the District, that number speaks to our students' determination and the trust they put in our School.

We are building off our strong academic performance in the 2025-26 school year, where our learners demonstrated outstanding gains in English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED attainment. This year, our popular and effective Nurse Aide Training program has continued to expand enrollment, and our workforce development team is preparing to launch a new course on Food & Beverage Management in early 2027 to deepen our programming in the hospitality field. Carlos Rosario School learners are vital to DC's workforce, and our connections with employers help us to tailor curriculum to industry demand. The CR School model continues to evolve and earn recognition for our innovation and impact; read on for examples of the Carlos Rosario School in the spotlight!

Our classroom efforts are only part of the student experience; the Carlos Rosario School model provides holistic supportive services, which we continue

to expand.Through a partnership with Catholic Charities, we are now hosting monthly food distributions to better meet increasing need for food assistance. And – this fall, we are realizing a long-term dream of providing on-site health services for our learner community, thanks to a pilot partnership with La Clínica del Pueblo.

None of this would be possible without your support – thank you for standing with our learners. I invite you to read on and stay in touch!



Allison R. Kokkoros
Chief Executive Officer

Did You Know...



Highlights

Carlos Rosario School Receives 2026 Board Leadership Award

The Carlos Rosario School received the highly competitive 2026 Board Leadership Award from the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, becoming the first charter school and workforce education organization to earn this honor. The award recognizes our Board's mission-driven leadership and commitment to engaging the School community through employee participation, public comment opportunities, and involvement in School events. You can find a short video here in which Chair Robbie Dean shares how the Board uses data to inform decisions.



A New Resource for Student Health and Well-Being

Carlos Rosario School and La Clínica del Pueblo have opened a mini health clinic at the School's Harvard Street Campus, bringing primary and preventive healthcare closer to students through in person and Telehealth care. The initiative responds to growing concerns students shared about access to affordable health care including the difficult choices between paying for medication and meeting basic needs. The clinic will offer weekly appointments and same-day visits, for learners at both campuses.

Read the full story on our website



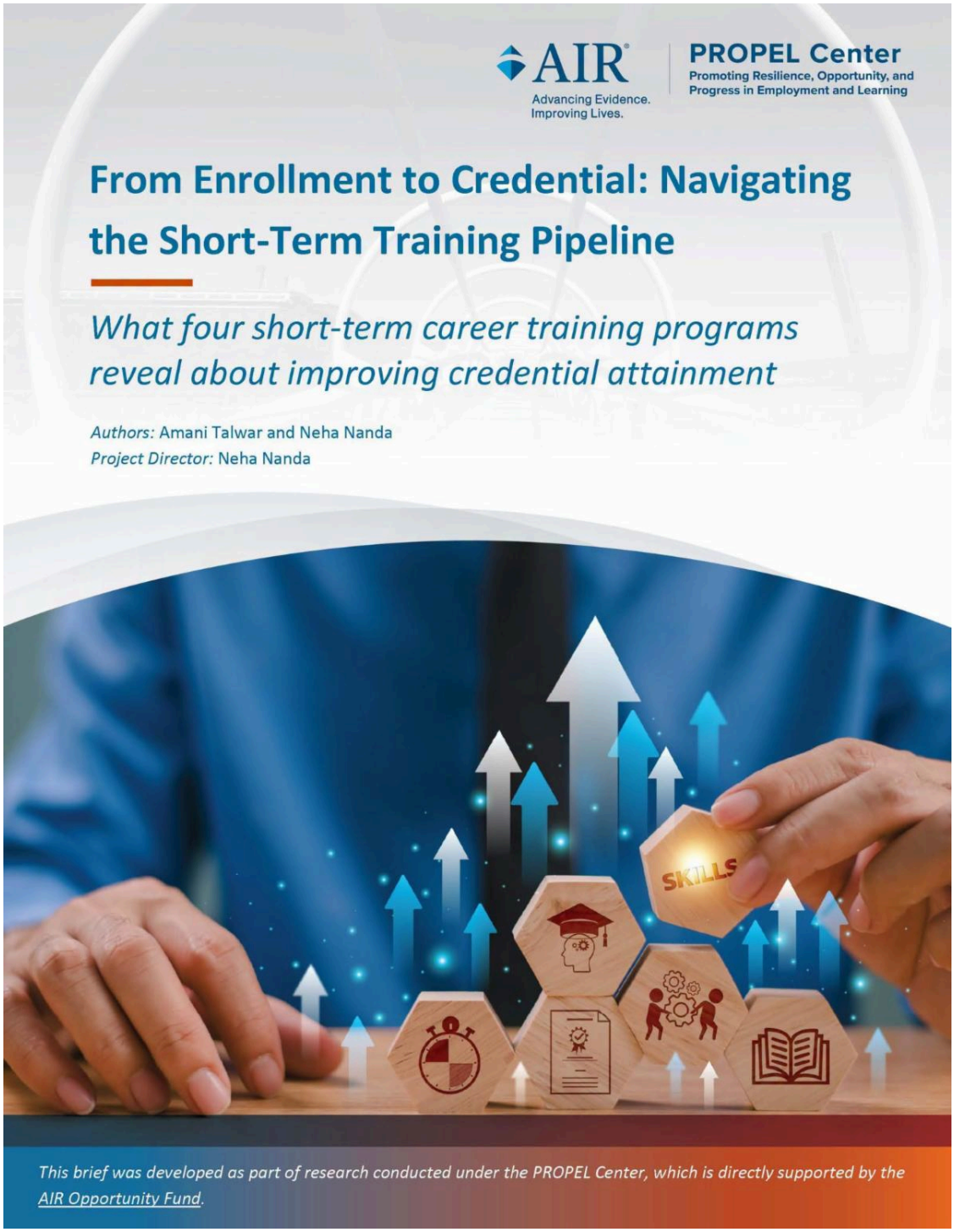
Carlos Rosario School in the News: Read us on Latino Magazine

We're honored to be featured in the latest issue of LATINO Magazine! We're proud to be highlighted in two inspiring stories, "School for the Ages" and "Achieving the Dream." These articles celebrate our mission of empowering adult learners through education, career training, and opportunities that transform lives as well as honor the accomplishments of Jay Haddock and Hector Torres in support of the School.

Research Confirms the Impact of Career Training

New research from the American Institutes for Research highlights the success of Carlos Rosario School's career training programs. Nearly two-thirds of enrolled students across four programs earned an industry-recognized certification or qualification, with exam pass rates reaching 98% among students who completed training and took their exams.

hese outcomes are possible as a result of well designed programs and our students' determination combined with the ceaseless efforts of faculty and staff, committed employers, advisory committee members, donors, and other partners. Together, we are providing adult learners with cutting-edge training, resources, and support they need to earn credentials and build brighter career futures. Learn more here.



Carlos Rosario School in the National Spotlight

The Fall 2026 COABE Journal highlights how Carlos Rosario School's nearly 20-year partnership with MedStar Washington Hospital Center is helping build DC's healthcare workforce. Since 2020, more than 300 students have trained at the hospital, about 100 graduates now work there, and 11 have become registered nurses. This partnership demonstrates the lasting impact of investing in students and preparing skilled, compassionate healthcare professionals. **Read the full article in the COABE Journal.**

Carlos Rosario School Nurse Aide students gain real-world clinical training at MedStar Washington Hospital Center.







Leadership Team Update: Libby Miller Joins the Carlos Rosario School as Chief of Staff



We are delighted to announce that Libby Miller has officially joined the Carlos Rosario School team as Chief of Staff.

After supporting the School's strategic plan and other key initiatives for five years, Libby has joined the team full-time. Her responsibilities include strategic planning and organizational goal-setting; managing key cross-functional projects, such as the Health and Culture Survey cycle; supporting the documentation of key elements of our School model; overseeing research and decision-making processes; and more.

Donor Spotlight: Nancy J. Nelson



The Carlos Rosario School lost a member of its beloved community of volunteers last spring. Nancy Nelson supported instruction in our ESL program. With a career in education and science communication, as well as a passion for travel, Nancy found a mission and community that spoke to her values at Carlos Rosario School. In her will, Nancy made a bequest to the School, which allows her to continue to express the value she placed in our work of educating adult learners from around the world. We are most grateful to her and her remarkable commitment to us. It is an honor for those who have had the chance to know her and she will be missed - even as her impact lives on.

Alumni Stories

From Resilience to New Possibilities

Meet Marilyn. A 2022 graduate of Carlos Rosario School's Bilingual Teaching Assistant program, she is turning her dreams into reality. With the foundation, encouragement, and continued support she received from Carlos Rosario, Marilyn is now pursuing a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Old Dominion University.

Her journey highlights the lasting impact of education and the importance of investing in students' futures.

Read Marilyn's full story



Founders’ Day

In late October, the Carlos Rosario School celebrated Founders’ Day in honor of Carlos Manuel Rosario and Sonia Gutierrez for establishing our school and opening doors for tens of thousands of adult learners. As part of the celebration, Carlos Rosario’s student government members met with our CEO, Allison R. Kokkoros, and Vilma Rosario, Vice Chair of the Board and daughter of Carlos Manuel Rosario. Together they shared stories of resilience, viewed the original application for charter school status, and historic photos. They also reflected on the values of love, patience, and determination that carried our school through its founding in 1970 and its triumphant reopening as the nation’s first adult serving charter school in 1998.

Read more about Founders’ Day.









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