

# USF NEXUS INITIATIVE 2019 AWARD RECIPIENT

## **Jody McBrien**

*Interventions for Successful Refugee Integration: Welcoming America in New Zealand (Welcoming Communities)*

While working as a fellow in New Zealand in 2014, Professor McBrien suggested that New Zealand implement the refugee integration principles of the Welcoming America program. The country has recently implemented this recommendation through the creation of the Welcoming Communities program. The Welcoming Communities program is intended to help refugees and other migrants integrate in New Zealand. Professor McBrien and Professor Bemak, of George Mason University, plan to evaluate two Welcoming Communities sites, in Palmerston North and Canterbury, to determine how the Welcoming America model has been modified to serve refugees in New Zealand. They will also provide workshops aimed at helping teachers understand the complexities of the refugee experience and how to create culturally responsive work with refugee trauma. These trainings will serve to enhance the Welcoming Communities model.

## **Partnership:**

**Fred Bemak, Ed.D.**

George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia)



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