1. **Dr. Francisco Alvarado**

[voiceover/video; 00:00] Dr. Francisco Alvarado: We receive many mirgrants every year. You know, from the inception of the country it’s been a country built on immigrants. And the migrants that come to this country malke, fulfill their dreams here so one of the things that always brought my attention to me was, what about those individuals with disabilities that come to this country? They should also have access to the American Dream.

[text on screen 00:00] “Dr. Francisco Alvarado Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IHDS), PRIDE Partner”

[00:28] Dr. Francisco Alvarado: But all the services delivery systems that I’ve been in contact with throughout the years, uh, really never focused nor touched the barriers nor were there a path of information to the agencies that work with this population. And so PRIDE has really been a changing mechanism I think in service delivery format because it brought together professionals to talk about these issues, to talk about the huge gaps that exist in services, and try to build around these gaps, the supports that migrants mays need, refugees or asylum seekers may need in order for them to be able to fulfill their dreams in this country and be able to eliminate the barriers so they can get to where they want to go.

[01:21] Dr. Francisco Alvarado: My passion and my heart, and working with, uh, the PRIDE project, eh, the project to touch these communities, is to look at how we can fill that void. Begin to educate professionals in this field, and build a path within the services that currently exist for all people with disabilities in this country, but also to include those that are arriving, that also have, you know, hopes and dreams to fulfil themselves in terms of their life, um, goals, and, um, looking forwards to starting a whole new life in this country

[logos appear on screen 01:58] “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research NIDILRR

PRIDE Partners of Refugees in Illinois Disability Employment

UIC University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Disability and Human Development

College of Applied Health Sciences”