

NCERA 216
Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities
Salon C, Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO
Mid-Year Meeting
May 25, 2010
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Thematic Group Plan Updates
 - a. Strengthening Families and Involvement in Education
 - b. Entrepreneurship and Business
 - c. Building Immigrant Friendly Communities
 - d. Building Diverse Organizations
 - e. Civic Engagement
- III. NIMSS Registration
- IV. Collaborating with SERA 37: The New Hispanic South
- V. Inventory of Activities/Accomplishments for Annual Report
 - a. Publications/Dissemination
 - b. Grant proposal submissions
 - c. Grant award implementation
 - d. Community and Professional Presentations
 - e. Project implementation/evaluation
 - f. Events Organized
 - g. Collaborative Activities/Partnerships
- VI. Annual Meeting
 - a. Location/host
 - b. date
- VII. Other Items
- VIII. Adjournment

ATTENDEES

Pilar Horner, Julian Samora Research Institute, Michigan State University

Mercedes Saint-Elin, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Cristina Case, Alianzas, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Ricardo Diaz, University of Illinois

German Cutz, University of Illinois

Stephen Janetta, University of Missouri

Alejandra Gudiño, University of Missouri

Ethriam Brammer, Wayne State University

Domingo Martínez, Cambio Center/University of Missouri-Columbia

Rubén Martinez, Julian Samora Research Institute, Michigan State University

Jan Flora, Iowa State University

Claudia Prado Meza, Iowa State University

Diego Thompson, Iowa State University

GUESTS FROM SERA 37

Andrew Behnke, North Carolina State University, Chair of SERA 37 (by telephone).

Ron Cox, Oklahoma State University professor (by telephone).

Cintia Aguilar, North Carolina State University-Coop Extension

Kathleen Tajeu, Alabama Coop Extension, Auburn University

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

Rubén Martinez, Co-Chair of NCERA 216, opened the meeting at 6:40 pm, welcomed everyone, particularly guests from SERA 37, our sister organization in the South.

I. Introductions

Following introductions, Rubén emphasized the importance of our organization for Latino professionals in the Land Grant System and for the growing Latino population in our two regions: the South and the North Central. It is important to commit ourselves to the long haul.

II. Thematic Group Updates

a. Strengthening Families and Involvement in Education

Alejandra Gudiño gave the report on behalf of Sandy Magaña, her co-chair, and herself. She indicated that the families and education work groups had been merged. In response to a brief questionnaire they had sent out, ten people had responded with research they are currently conducting, a brief statement of results, and future interests. She promised to compile the responses and post them on the Angel site, so all members could see them. She encouraged other groups to do the same. She also mentioned that a new person from the University of Wisconsin had indicated interest in the group.

b. Entrepreneurship and Business- Jan Flora gave the report in the absence of Co-chair Abelardo Rodríguez. He mentioned that Iowa State University (Flora and Kim Greder) and Kansas State University (Spencer Wood, Gerad Middendorf, and Dan Kaul) have submitted a proposal to the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development for a mini-grant related to food deserts, in preparation for a year from now applying for a HUFFED grant (USDA, HHS, and the Treasure Dept) to develop social and physical infrastructure to reduce food deserts in states in the Midwest. The exact locations would depend on interest from other North Central states. He anticipated that they would hear whether the mini-grant was secured within a few days. Rubén mentioned that Chip Allen, had done food desert mapping of poor communities in Ohio by transposing distance to a full service grocery store with social variables and has data for the Great Lakes states..

Ethriam Brammer indicated that at St. Louis University they were using resilience theory to look at both obstacles and opportunities for Latino entrepreneurs in the city, using PUMS data for the metropolitan area with follow-up primary data collection with Latino businesses. They are also collaborating with Wayne State University on a Latino Impact study in the Detroit and St. Louis metro areas.

German Cutz noted that in Chicago they are working on developing a partnership between UNAM and the University of Illinois-Chicago to assist green industry workers. Accion would provide micro-loans. They are trying to expand the concept of entrepreneurship by helping Mexican women to become food vendors from their homes in Chicago. University of Illinois Extension would provide training and certification.

Jan also mentioned the Midwest Rural Assembly which will meet in South Sioux City, Nebraska on August 16-17, 2010. Last year there was considerable interest in the question of Latino entrepreneurship. He hopes to interest some people there in getting involved in NCERA 216. He encouraged others to attend as well.

c. Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

Domingo Martínez reported for himself and his co-chair, Ben Mueller. The group is particularly focused on: 1) What factors impede or foster community? And 2) How do receiving communities understand the newcomers. He is particularly interested in addressing the question of how receiving communities in rural areas value the immigrants in their midst.

Steve Jeanetta notes that they have been doing research on Latino's perception of the receiving community, as well as on the way Anglos define the place. For example, people say there is only have one grocery store in town (when there is also a Latino grocery). Rubén notes that there is a recent report on 9 cities on the integration of Latinos.

Domingo emphasizes the importance of uncovering the key relationships that generate welcoming communities? He also notes that research is being done on networks related to health care.

d. Building Diverse Organizations

Rubén Martinez and Jaime Dominguez of Northwestern are co-chairs. Rubén discussed getting strategic plans of Land Grant universities and their Extension services to determine how they address diversity and Latinos in particular. Additionally he is working on developing a diversity readiness scale with a colleague in Laredo that could be a useful tool in building diverse organizations. He said the group's plan is available on ANGEL.

e. Civic Engagement

Carmen de Rusha and Joel Jennings are co-chairs, but neither was in attendance. Ethriam Brammer indicated that he thought they were looking at how service learning models could be used to encourage civic engagement around inclusion of Latinos in community affairs.

III. NIMSS Registration

Rubén encouraged those who had not registered with the NIMSS system to do so. Those on Land Grant campuses should register through their Experiment Station – even if they have an Extension appointment. This will allow participants to apply for funds to attend the annual meeting of NCERA 216. Non-land grant members must register through the Administrative Advisor, Chuck Hiebert at Purdue University. Carmen de Rusha, the Vice Chair of NCERA 216 is working on sending out forms so the non-LGU people can get signed up.

Rubén also asked if anyone who is not in a LGU had tried to access Angel. Documents are being uploaded there. Each person must request a new password because it would be a great amount of effort to get everyone on anew. NCRCRD folks are helping us get this taken care of.

IV. Collaborating with SERA 37: The New Hispanic South

Andrew Behnke, of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at North Carolina State University and co-chair of SERA 37 (along with Cesar Asuaje, IFAS/University of Florida) joined the meeting by telephone and Cintia Aguilar (who along with Sharon Gibson, University of Georgia Extension is co-chair elect) gave a brief history of SERA 37. (One can also see a slide show about SERA-37 at http://srdc.msstate.edu/opportunities/sera37_overview.pdf.)

The first meeting of SERA 37 was in Spring 2008, sponsored and organized by the Southern Rural Development Center. SERA 37 took an infrastructure orientation, focusing particularly on the capacity building needed to build the social infrastructure within LGUs. In the process, they developed the following task forces:

- *Training Task Force.* They held a conference on Bridging the Culture Divide: Inclusive Extension Programming for Latinos. Raleigh, NC (Oct. 14-15, 2008). They had planned to repeat it in Alabama and Mississippi, but budget cuts came down about that time and there was no money to do so. At the conference, there was a lot of discussion –by people in Extension -- about lack of capacity to work with Latinos in Extension. That was followed up with two Webinar trainings primarily for Extension personnel across the region in 2009-2010, which were pretty successful.
- *Immersion Task Force.* This task force focused on immersion in the US new immigrant experience. Used resources of North Carolina Center for International Understanding and at the University of Georgia. It turns out that it is not any less expensive to do an immersion experience stateside, but more importantly, US immersion projects reveal different things than overseas projects. It seemed more relevant to relate to Latinos in the U.S. and to experience their situation, rather than experiencing conditions in another country, which by definition are not those faced by Latinos in this country. Based on the experience with domestic immersion the task force is developing a curriculum that can build on the immersion experience.
- *Research Task Force.* There was a big gap in research and researchers in LGUs in the South. This task force has been hardest to get off the ground.
- *Inventory Task Force.* They have developed a compendium of extension programs targeting Latinos, which can be found at their website <http://sera37.wordpress.com/> Topics include Family and Parenting, 4-H and Youth, Demographics, Agriculture, and General Resources. Many if not most of the resources are in Spanish.

Andrew describes Sera 37's organizational structure as a Community of Practice (CoP). The steering committee meets once a month thru conference calls, with an annual face to face meeting.

Andrew asked how the two regional groups could collaborate.

- German suggested mentoring visits among states where participants go to another state to learn what they are doing.
- Andrew observed that the two groups might collaborate on webinars. Could relate to communities of practice. He also notes that a lack of funds severely slowed and limited SERA 37's activities.
- Cristina—Alianzas' Cultural Academy really does the cultural immersion and has a curriculum. There are possibilities of collaboration there.

- Rubén suggests collaborating on publications. JSRI has electronic pubs and we sometimes get 250,000 hits a month, which makes it more accessible to the public. Then authors can rewrite and publish in regular peer reviewed journals.
- Ricardo Diaz describes an international project he is involved in that developed a Sustainable Development Wiki. We have the software and could perhaps develop a “Latino Wiki” for a domestic Latino version.
- Will be calls thru SRDC for small grants—includes food deserts.
- Rubén notes that it is clear that we need to talk more with SERA 37. Perhaps conference calls between the two groups’ executive boards can be arranged.

V. Inventory of Activities/Accomplishments for Annual Report

Rubén indicated that there will be a mid-term review by NCERA next year. Our annual report can prepare us for that.

The NCERA 216 Annual Report should cover October 2009 thru September 31, 2010. Perhaps we could even go back to October 2008, when the Development group was recognized. Rubén sent out a link to last year’s NCERA report a couple of weeks ago. Rubén proposed a September 1 deadline for submitting material for the annual report. Then people can add things from the last month of the Fiscal year a month or so later. Each group should send information under the following categories:

- a. Publications/Dissemination
- b. Grant proposal submissions
- c. Grant award implementation
- d. Community and Professional Presentations
- e. Project implementation/evaluation
- f. Events Organized
- g. Collaborative Activities/Partnerships

VI. Annual Meeting

Various alternatives were discussed for the annual meeting. Some felt that the annual meeting should be associated with another regional Latino meeting, but no one knew of such a meeting coming up in the fall. It was also suggested that someone might want to volunteer to host a fall meeting. Purdue was suggested because the co-chair and administrative advisor are there. Ricardo Diaz promised to check to see if the University of Illinois might host a fall meeting. It was also suggested that we might have an entirely electronic meeting in the fall, and have the face to face meeting a year from now in conjunction with *Cambio de Colores*. We could have a joint meeting of SERA 37 and NCERA 216 around Cambio next year. Cambio will be hosted by Alianzas in Kansas City.

It was agreed that these ideas will all be taken under advisement and that the Executive Board will address the issue in its next conference call.

VII. Other Items

Domingo asked people to give him tips on how to get funding for *Cambio de Colores* and the joint meeting of NCERA 216 and SERA 37 next year.

VIII. Adjournment

The Mid-Year Meeting of NCERA 216 adjourned at 9:40pm.