

NCERA-216

Project/Activity Number: NCERA 216

Project/Activity Title: Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities

Period Covered: June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012

Date of this Report: August 9, 2012

Annual Meeting Dates: June 13 and 15, 2012

Participants: June 8 and 10, 2011 -- Rubén Martinez (MSU), Eleazar Gonzalez (Mizzou), Domingo Martinez (Mizzou), Cornelia Flora (ISU), Jan Flora (ISU), Hye-Young Kim (UMN), Saúl Abarca-Orozco (ISU), Diego Thompson (ISU), Craig Carpenter (MSU), Cristina Ortiz (UI), Jorge Atilas (Guest, OK-SU), Steven Jeanetta (Mizzou), Lorena Estrada-Martinez (Wash U), Megan Strawsine Carney (Mizzou), Deirdre Lanesskog (UIUC), Andrew Behnke (NCSU), Alejandra Gudiño (Mizzou), Corinne Valdivia (Mizzou)

Brief Summary of minutes of annual meeting:

The annual meeting had three primary objectives, to: 1) provide updates in each of the thematic areas of emphasis; 2) hold a sustainable planning session, and 3) address leadership succession issues.

Accomplishments:

All three objectives were accomplished at the annual meeting. A brief summary is provided for each objective as follows:

First, updates were provided in the areas of entrepreneurship and business, families and education, building immigrant friendly communities, and diversity competent organizations. No representatives for the civic engagement area were present.

Second, a sustainable planning session was held. The session was organized around four major questions: 1) What works best about NCERA and how could it function better? 2) How can we engage more faculty, staff and students at our universities and how would they contribute to the initiative with different resources? 3) How can the research/extension working groups be energized, and are there different topics that can be considered? Finally, 4) What should be the balance between research and outreach in each of these possible initiatives? A key objective that emerged from the discussion was to promote collaborative research projects. The following were presented as potential research topics: 1) Latino farmers; 2) Local food systems, health and obesity; 3) Latino entrepreneurship; and 4) Latino families and youth outcomes. Research leaders were identified in each area.

Third, leadership succession issues were addressed as follows: Present Chair, Rubén Martínez, will continue for another year; Kim Greder will continue as Vice Chair; Pilar Horner will continue as Secretary/Communications Coordinator; Executive Board members are: NCERA officers, and Miguel Carranza, Alejandra Gudiño, Ericka Noguera, Domingo Martínez, and Saúl Abarca-Orozco. Co-chairs by thematic area are as follows: entrepreneurship and business, Saúl Abarca-Orozco and Jan Flora; families and education, Alejandra Gudiño and Lisa Dorner; building immigrant friendly communities, Domingo Martínez and Diego Thompson; building diverse organizations, Rubén Martínez and Miguel Carranza; and civic engagement, Erika Noguera and Carmen DeRusha.

Short-term Outcomes: The initiative has developed relationships among members from different college and universities across the north central region. Collaborative projects continue to be explored, developed and implemented. NCERA 216 and SERA 37, which are similar interstate initiatives, continue to share information and will begin combining forces in developing webinars for sharing research results, providing development workshops, and exploring research areas in which to collaborate.

Outputs: A webinar series was kicked off last year with Dr. Abelardo Rodríguez presenting on the topic of Hispanic Immigrants in the Northwest that was well attended. Plans are to continue with the series and Corinne Valdivia has agreed to do the next one focusing on Latino integration in rural communities. SERA 37 continues to provide opportunities to learn about the Juntos Program, which engages Latino families in learning about the education system. Numerous professional papers have been delivered at professional conferences and several researchers have published the results of their work (see below for selected entries). Outcomes are occurring in outreach, education and research. A critical synergy is developing across the region that will continue to produce key outcomes in each of the thematic areas.

Activities: In education, faculty participants continue to work with graduate students in developing dissertations on topics relevant to NCERA 216, particularly in the area of entrepreneurship both in Michigan and Iowa. In outreach, preliminary research with Latino farmers in Missouri has resulted in a funded project through the USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher program at Mizzou. The project is working with FSA in SW Missouri. In Michigan, a collaborative effort with USDA agencies is underway to implement a pilot project with Latino farmers and ranchers in the mid-Michigan region. In Iowa, the following activities were carried out: 1) Photovoice training meetings with high school youth (Ottumwa, 6/28/11; Des Moines 9/17/11); 2) Two community meetings where high school students presented Photovoice posters (Council Bluffs, 10/15/11; and Des Moines, 10/23/11); 3) Several planning meetings to develop curriculum for refugee community gardens training and planning meetings for farm incubator in metro Des Moines area. Included a visit to New Roots for Refugees farm incubator in Kansas City, Kansas, 7/25/11; and 4) Participated in North Central Regional Center for Rural Development Roundtables on local foods and Latino entrepreneurship, Perry, IA 11/9 and 11/10/11. In research, the pilot program in Ann Arbor, MI examining how children of immigrant families experience fear of their own and/or their family members' deportation continues underway. In Michigan, NCERA 216 participants have joined a research project on preventing mastitis on dairy farms, where Latinos are becoming the majority of employees. These projects combine education, outreach and research.

Milestones: NCERA 216 has achieved some funded projects in the areas of Latino farmers and ranchers and in mastitis prevention practices in dairy farms, where Latinos are

increasingly becoming the majority of employees. As these and other efforts continue, collaborative relationships take hold across key entities and among interested scholars and practitioners. Collaboration by NCERA 216 and the Cambio de Colores Annual Conference continues to serve an important medium for this achievement. It is these relationships that will make the lasting impacts in the region.

Impacts: Contributions to the stock of knowledge and to the understanding of outreach personnel and practitioners about Latino and immigrant communities in the Midwest has been the most important impact to date. There is now a rapidly increasing body of knowledge that is emerging from the work of NCERA 216 members that is shedding light in critical areas that previously had not been systematically studied. Moreover, there is a sense of community that is emerging among participants across the region that is yielding outputs and activities as the initiative moves forward.

Publications

While only works in print are listed here, numerous professional panels and presentations have been made by members of NCERA 216 at regional and national conferences.

Books

Martinez, R. O., Palma Ramirez, E., & Horner, P. (2011). A Brief History of Cristo Rey Church in Lansing, MI. Lansing, MI: Cristo Rey Church.

Martinez, R. O. (Ed.). (2011). *Latinos in the Midwest*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press. Contains 14 chapters on different aspects of the Latino experience in Midwestern communities.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Flora, J. L., Emery, M., Thompson, D., Prado-Meza, C. M., and Flora, C. B. (2012). “New Immigrants in Local Food Systems: Two Iowa Cases,” *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2012: 119–134.

Kilanowski, J. F. (2012). Breaking the Ice: A pre-intervention strategy to engage research participants. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*. 26(3): 209-212.

Thompson Bello, D. (2011). “Somos del campo”: Latino/a gardeners and farmers in two rural communities of Iowa. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. 1(3): 3-16.jos

Valdivia, C. & Flores, L. Y. (2012). Factors affecting the job satisfaction of Latino/a immigrants in the Midwest. *Journal of Career Development*. 39(1): 31-49

Chapters

Flora, J. L., Prado-Meza, C. M., Lewis, H., Montalvo, C. & Dunn, F. (2011). Impact of immigration and customs enforcement raid on Marshalltown, Iowa. In R. O. Martinez (Ed.), *Latinos in the Midwest*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press.

Vega, A., Martinez, R., & Stevens, T. (2011). Cosas Politicas: Politics, Attitudes, and Perceptions by Region. In R. O. Martinez (Ed.), *Latinos in the Midwest*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press.

Proceedings/Research Newsletters

Emery, M., Thompson, D., Prado-Meza, C. M., Flora, & Flora, C. (2012). Involving Immigrant Latino Farmers in Local Food Systems: A Community Capitals Approach.” Pp. 40-45 in Stephen Jeanetta and Corinne Valdivia, Eds. *Latinos in the Heartland: Migration and Shifting Human Landscapes*. Proceedings of the 10th Annual Cambio de Colores Conference, Kansas City Missouri, June 8-10, 2011.

Flora, J. L., Prado-Meza, C. M., & Lewis, H. (2011). After the raid is over: Marshalltown, Iowa and the Consequences of Worksite Enforcement Raids, *Special Report*. Immigration Policy Center, Washington, DC, 21 pp.

Jeanetta, S., & Valdivia, C. (2012). *Latinos in the Heartland: Migration and Shifting Human Landscapes, Proceedings of the 10th Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, June 8-10, 2011*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, Cambio Center.

Jeanetta, S. & Valdivia, C. (eds.). (2011). *Cambio de Colores: Latinos in the Heartland. Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Conference: Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities, Columbia, Missouri, May 24-26, 2010*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, Cambio Center.

Kayitsinga, J., & Martinez, R. (2011). “The Education of Latinos in Michigan and its Mid-Sized Cities.” *NEXO*. 14(2): 10-11, 14, 17.

Martinez, R., & Buntin, J. T. (2011). “Latino-Owned Businesses: Patterns of Growth and Exclusion.” *NEXO*. 14(2): 1, 3, 18-19.

Martinez, R., & Gardner, R. (2011). “Latino Farmers on the Rise.” *NEXO*, 15(1): 1, 17-23.

Martinez, R. & Horner, P. (2011). “Cristo Rey Church in Lansing, MI,” *NEXO*, 15(1): 1, 3, 9-11, 14-17.

Martinez, R. (2012). “The Turn toward Incarceration in the U.S. and Michigan,” *NEXO*, 15(2): 1, 17-23.

Martinez, R. (2012). “Latinos and the 2012 Presidential Election,” *NEXO*, 15(2): 12-13.

Santiago, O., Martinez, R., & Avila, B. (2011). "Hispanic Mothers' Perception of Child's Activity Level Associated with Child's Obesity and Physical Activity." *NEXO*. 14(2): 1, 6-9, 16-17.

Book Reviews

Flora, C. (2011). *Remaking the Heartland: Middle America since the 1950s*, by Robert Wuthnow. *Journal of Regional Science*, 51 (4): 857-859.

Guzman, J. (2012). *Everyday Injustice: Latino Professionals and Racism*, by Maria Chávez. *NEXO*. 15(2): 4.

Pisani, M. J. (2011). *Latinos in the Midwest*, edited by Rubén O. Martinez. *NEXO*. 15(2): 5.

Vélez Ortiz, D. (2011). *Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California and Oregon*, by Lynn Stephen. *NEXO*. 15(1): 4.

Grants and Contracts

Flora, J. L., and C.B. Flora, "Involving New Immigrants and Minorities in Local Food Systems," Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Ames, IA, February 1, 2011-June 30, 2012, \$40,434.

Lewis, H., NCAT, P.I.; Baker, J., Flora, J.L., and Larson, A., ISU, co-P.I.s, *Toward a New Homestead Act: Designing a Farmstead Transfer and Leasing Program for High-Value Farming and Farmstead Preservation*, Leopold Center, Feb. 2010-June 2011, \$32,000. (ISU share \$8,200).

Co-P.I.s, Kissam, E., Aguirre Division of JBS International, Inc., Flora, C.B., and Flora, J.L., Iowa State University, Griffith, D., East Carolina University, *Rural Development in Regions Heavily Impacted by Immigration*, submitted to USDA/CSREES, NRI Rural Development, ISU Share = \$159,000, October 1, 2008-June 30, 2011.

Authorization: