Project/Activity Number: NCERA 216

Project/Activity Title: Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities

Period Covered: 10/31/2019 to 10/31/2019

Date of This Report: January 6, 2020

Annual Meeting Date(s): June 17 and June 19, 2020

**Participant**s:

Bertha Mendoza: Kansas State University

Julia Albarracin: University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

Ruben Martinez: Julian Samora Research Institute, Michigan State University

Debra Bolton: Kansas State University

Kimberly Greder: Iowa State University Extension

Veronica Perez Picasso: Cambio Center, University of Missouri

Marcelo Siles: Michigan State University

Yorhira Macian Mejia: Michigan State University

Steve Jeanetta: University of Missouri

Ness Sandoval: St. Louis University

Cordelia C. Candelaria-Benedje: Arizona State University

**Brief summary of minutes of annual meeting**: <https://ksuemailprod-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/personal/dbolton_ksu_edu/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BDF0761F8-64C4-4B33-8FDF-73ADDD578229%7D&file=Document.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true>

**Accomplishments:** **How can we promote research partnerships?**

Steve Jeanetta, Ruben Martinez, and Jan Flora are studying the livelihood strategies of Latino farmers in Iowa, Missouri, and Michigan. Early findings demonstrate the need to build relationships with the farmers who tend not to have connections to institutional resources. Marcelo noted that the principle challenge is language and trust.

Kim Greder is working on partnerships with people who are not necessarily in NCERA.  University of Illinois, U. of Houston, and others to look at the health of Latino audiences.  Also, Kim is working in an integrated project to build sustainability in programs that address poverty by collecting data from parents and youth.

Julia Albarracin reported research in immigrant communities in Champaign-Urbana

University of Illinois focusing on the Guatemalan community with a small grant to address needs.  Also looking at how changes in legal status changes behavior around identity. Counselors in public school systems in their interactions with undocumented students show unsupportive relationships.

Debra Bolton reported a book, which is now at publisher, which focuses on the networks of the African diaspora of women in contemporary communities across the U.S. Debra’s chapter focused on resilience of the women as they navigate new communities.

Ness reported a project with the Missouri Health Foundation focusing on communities with high immigrant populations across Missouri, in Kansas City Kansas, and Illinois.  Also working with the Mosaic looking at immigrants in the country who are working in jobs for which they are highly over-qualified because of licensing and educational restrictions that do not acknowledge the educational credentials of the home country. Also working in a project focused on demographics and data on GIS.

Steve Jeanetta reported on work with Latino farmers and how they develop as entrepreneurs.  Some of the data is being developed for resource providers to work with the Latino farmers.  Also working with University of Missouri to expand Latino resource centers into other states of the North Central Region.  They hope to discover what role Land Grant systems can do to further reach out to Latino audiences. A consistent support system needs to be put in place in institutions. Inconsistency contributes to distrust in institutions.

Julia and Ruben continue to work together to develop a training model to promote integration of Latino communities and Spanish speaking immigrants into civic engagement activities.

**How can we assure reporting for work collaborations and individual research?**Debra will get the template from Ruben to distribute among NCERA 216 members.

Ruben reminded the group that Hector Santiago, our new administrative advisor, wants us to focus on interstate collaborations around our strategic areas.

Reports – Debra will distribute template at NCERA 216 annual meeting in June 17, 2020 so that members will have their reports submitted by July 30, 2020 for August report.   
Adjournment

**Short-term Outcomes**: Members of NCERA 216 reach across state lines to collaborate on research and educational programming to ease the integration process of Latinos and other immigrant populations in Midwest communities and institutions of higher education.

**Outputs**: In addition to two authorized meetings in 2019, NCERA 216 members commit to a minimum of three interstate collaboration projects. 1) Michigan State University and University of Illinois (Julia and Ruben), 2) University of Missouri, Iowa State University and Michigan State University (Ruben, Jan, and Steve), and 3) St. Louis University and University of Missouri at Kansas City, and University of Illinois (Ness, Gerardo and Julia)

**Activities**: NCERA 216 Members focus on five strategic areas:

**Entrepreneurship and Business**

Co-Chairs:

Corrinne Valdivia [valdiviac@missouri.edu](mailto:valdiviac@missouri.edu)

Maria Rodriguez-Alcala   [rodriguezalcalam@missouri.edu](mailto:rodriguezalcalam@missouri.edu)

**Families and Education**

Co-Chairs:

Daisy Barron-Collins [daisybcollins@missouristate.edu](mailto:daisybcollins@missouristate.edu)

Jackie Guzman [jguzman2@unl.edu](mailto:jguzman2@unl.edu)

Kim reported phasing out Juntos to expand programming in Latino communities called, Solir Adalente.  It focuses on career and pathways to college. Her project centers in Iowa, but she hopes to expand in terms of interstate collaboration. Ruben suggested that we program that applies across the country with core elements.

**Building Latinx and Immigrant-Friendly Communities**

Chairs:   Stephen Jeanetta [jeanettas@missouri.edu](mailto:jeanettas@missouri.edu)

Athena Ramos [aramos@unmc.edu](mailto:aramos@unmc.edu)

Ricardo Diaz   [xpenn.diaz@gmail.com](mailto:xpenn.diaz@gmail.com)

Julia spoke of the antithesis of friendly communities with organizations that are emboldended to be overt around racism. Kim spoke of a curriculum called “Facing History Facing Ourselves.”

How do we address intellectual growth around truly addressing integration of under-represented populations into educational institutions to advance community transformations?

A suggestion was made move the Cambio de Colores conference beyond Missouri.

**Building Diversity-Competent Organizations**

Co- Chairs:   Rubén Martinez [mart1097@msu.edu](mailto:ruben.martinez@ssc.msu.edu)

Gerardo Martinez [martinezgr@umkc.edu](mailto:martinezgr@umkc.edu)

Alejandra Gudiño [gudinoa@missouri.edu](mailto:gudinoa@missouri.edu)

This group continues to work on ways to increase equitable representation in academic, administrative, and power structures in higher education, a slow process since the dominant structures appear to be unwilling to give up their spaces.

Bertha Mendoza will keep us abreast of Kansas Extension’s study of reaching under-served population in hopes to include other states in NC Region for an interstate collaboration.

**Demographics and Change**

Co-Chairs:   Onésimo Sandoval [jsandov3@slu.edu](mailto:jsandov3@slu.edu)

Sal Valdez [salvaladez85@gmail.com](mailto:salvaladez85@gmail.com)

Debra Bolton [dbolton@ksu.edu](mailto:dbolton@ksu.edu)

**Milestones**: Project renewal for NCERA 216

**Impacts**: North Central Region institutions increased efforts to address inequities in serving under-represented populations by less than 1% with the addition of a Department of Multicultural Students Affairs Department at Kansas State University