NCERA-216

Project/Activity Number: NCERA 216

Project/Activity Title: Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern Communities

Period Covered: June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013

Date of this Report: July 9, 2013

Annual Meeting Dates: June 12 and 14, 2013, St. Louis, Missouri

Participants: June 8 and 10, 2011 — Rubén Martínez (MSU), Debra Bolton (KSU); Marlen Laschinski (CCHD, MO), Sarah Hendricks (Drake), Pilar Horner (MSU), Carmen DeRusha (Purdue), Ericka Noguera (UMKC), Domingo Martínez (Mizzou), Corrine Valdivia (Mizzou), Kim Greder (ISU), Onésimo Sandoval (SLU), Lisa Dorner (UMSL), Sonia Morales (WSU), Idalia McNulty (MDHS), Ricardo Diaz (C-U IF), Joel Jennings (SLU), Alejandra Gudiño (Mizzou), Jennifer Hale Gallardo (SLU), Steve Jeanetta (Mizzou), Cornelia Flora (ISU), Jan Flora (ISU), Eleazar Gonzalez (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) determine if participants wanted to move forward with renewal of the initiative, 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, participants discussed the matter of NCERA 216 expiring at the end of September and whether or not to renew. An overview of the steps and timelines for renewal was presented. It was decided to move forward with renewal. Persons who will work on developing the proposal are Rubén Martínez, Onésimo Sandoval, Ricardo Diaz, Kim Greder, Steve Jeanetta, Sarah Hendrick, and Sonia Morales.

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 -- Jose Amaya, Alejandra Gudiño, Stephen Jeanetta, Erika Noguera, and Domingo Martínez. Co-chairs by thematic area are as follows: Entrepreneurship and Business, Jose
Amaya and Jan Flora; Families and Education, Alejandra Gudiño and Lisa Dorner; Building Immigrant Friendly Communities, Domingo Martínez and Onésimo Sandoval; Building Diverse Organizations, Rubén Martínez and Stephen Jeanetta, 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 continue combining forces in developing webinars for sharing research results, providing development opportunities, and exploring research areas in which to collaborate; manuscripts are being published, webinars and symposia are becoming routinized, collaborative grants are being developed, and there is increasing interest in mentoring young Latinas.

**Outputs:** The webinar series hosted two seminars: one on “Methodological approaches and considerations for community action research with Latino communities” by Corinne Valdivia and colleagues, and the other on “Latina Immigrant Mothers—Negotiating New Food Environments to Preserve Cultural Food Practices and Healthy Child Eating” by Kim Greder. 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 continues to develop across the region to produce key outcomes in each of the thematic areas. Proceedings of the Cambio de Colores Conference are published and available on-line.

**Activities:** In education, faculty participants continue to work with graduate students in developing theses and dissertations on topics relevant to NCERA 216, particularly in the areas of health, human trafficking, and entrepreneurship both in Michigan and Iowa. At Iowa State the course Community Development 527: “Immigrants in Communities” was taught on-line as part of the Great Plains IDEA. In Minnesota a website on Latino Entrepreneurs in Minnesota has been developed. In outreach, research with Latino farmers in Missouri continues through projects funded by the USDA’s Beginning Farmer and Rancher program and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). One project is working with the Farm Service Agency in SW Missouri. An interstate grant proposal was submitted to the NIFA to work with Latino farmers and potential farmers in Missouri, Michigan, and Iowa. In Missouri, Mizzou Extension is working to implement the JUNTOS program with 4-H Latino children, with the emphasis being on completing high school and enrolling in a college or university. Work also continues with immigrant families, and an effort is underway to develop booklets that can serve as resources in different life areas. Alianzas has implemented Latina empowerment and leadership activities in Kansas City. In Iowa, the JUNTOS program is also being implemented with Latino families, and a mentoring project has spun off focusing on developing skills among young Latinas. 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, a statewide survey was conducted of Latino farmers with the assistance of regional office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Michigan Field
Office in East Lansing. Qualitative interviews were conducted with Latino business owners in Lansing, Saginaw and the Greater Detroit area, and research continued on the research project on preventing mastitis on dairy farms, where Latinos are becoming the majority of employees. Preliminary data were collected with Latino parents in the Kalamazoo area on how to improve home-school relations. In Indiana qualitative data were collected on school readiness issues among Latino families. Analysis is pending. In Missouri efforts are underway to generate acculturation profiles and developing approaches to the integration of Latinos. 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 are engendering relations of collective impact that will produce lasting effects 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 scholars and practitioners across the region that is yielding outputs and activities as the initiative moves forward.

**Publications/Presentations**

Works in print are listed here along with professional panels and presentations made by members of NCERA 216 at regional and national conferences.

**Books**


**Peer-Reviewed Articles**


**Chapters**

Proceedings/Reports/Research Newsletters


Book Reviews


Thesis/Dissertation


Presentations


Martinez, R., & B. Avila. “Do Formal Funding Sources Matter to the Survivability of Latino-Owned Firms?” Invited Presentation, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, August 12, 2012.

Martinez, R. “Celebrating the Legacy of César E. Chávez.” Annual Scholarship Fundraising Dinner, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, March 23, 2013.


Martinez, R. “Living in One’s Time,” Midwest LULAC Conference, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2013.


**Grants and Contracts**


Kilanowski, J. F. “With the eyes of students: Safety in the migrant camps and student development of a multimedia instructional learning tool,” Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Role: PI, $20,000.


**Website**

*Latino Entrepreneurs in Minnesota.* [https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/latino-entrepreneurs-in-minnesota/home-1](https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/latino-entrepreneurs-in-minnesota/home-1)

**Authorization:**