

**Cambio de Colores / Change of Colors
In Missouri - A Call to Action
Wednesday March 13, 2002
12:45 – 2:00 p.m.**

Panel Changes

Presenter: Dr. Lourdes Gouveia, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Chicano/Latino Studies, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Presentation Title: Demographic Changes, Latino Workers, and Barriers to Integration: The View from Nebraska

The main purpose of this presentation is to look at the main barriers inhibiting full economic and societal integration of Latino workers and families in Midwestern states such as Nebraska. The presentation begins with an overview of Nebraska's current and most significant demographic changes, especially the growth of the Latino population in rural and urban areas as well as labor markets. It is a well known fact that a significant proportion of Latino workers in the Midwest are concentrated in a small set of industrial niches, particularly food and meat processing. The presentation seeks to highlight what has changed and what has stayed the same since the early 1990s when these workers first arrived to work in such industries in visibly higher numbers, and as they have tried to establish roots in their respective receiving communities. The presentation is largely based on data recently collected for a study on the integration of Latin workers to Nebraska.

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Presenter: Christina Vasquez Case, Graduate Student (Ph.D.), University of Missouri-Columbia

Advisor: Dr. Rex Campbell, University of Missouri-Columbia

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Presentation Title: A Micro-Level Perspective: Learning About the Newcomers to Missouri Towns.

Missouri, as have other Mid Western states, has experienced an influx of Hispanics migrating into traditional, predominantly Caucasian communities that results in new challenges for community leaders and residents. I will provide a micro-level perspective of Hispanics who are the newcomers in five Mid-Missouri communities. Providing a perspective of the Hispanics' portfolios with; educational levels, English language proficiencies, translators, reasons for migration to that Missouri community, and etc. In addition, I will identify challenges communities have encountered from the Hispanic influx by providing a comparison of how their social and economic well being are affected in Sedalia, California, Columbia, Jefferson City, and Marshall, Missouri. We will also look at how communities are building networks to work with the Hispanic residents. Furthermore, I will identify some of the issues arising from the Hispanic influx that might provide a greater understanding of the Hispanic experience in these Mid-Missouri communities.

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Presenter: Dr. Ronald J. Turner, Executive Vice President and Director, University Outreach and Extension, University of Missouri System

Presentation Title: Demographic changes in Missouri and Implications for University Outreach & Extension

The Latino population in Missouri has increased 92 percent over the last 10 years. Latinos have come to Missouri for employment and educational advantages. Once they arrive, they find many challenges, including language barriers, cultural differences and low-pay employment. University of Missouri Outreach and Extension is partnering with Latino residents, state and local agencies, the Mexican government and local communities to help improve the lives of Latino people. Educational programs are being developed for the growing Latino population to provide essential resources for them and the communities in which they live.

The *Alianzas* Program was initiated in 2001 to enhance the efforts of Missouri communities to collaborate with the growing immigrant Hispanic populations through university and community partnerships. Session participants will learn how the program works and the benefits to be gained from these collaborative partnerships. The accomplishments of *Alianzas* include: educational materials adapted for Spanish-speaking audiences, leveraging of resources through grant applications, development of a relationship with the Mexican government for distance learning, and enhanced university/community partnerships in the Southwest, Central and West Central Regions of the state.