



A Research & Outreach Center on Latinos and Changing Communities in Missouri

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Mission

- To contribute to the University's mandate to provide education and enhance the welfare of all residents of the state of Missouri in the context of the dramatic demographic changes that are resulting in dynamic, multicultural, and diverse societies.
- To develop a premier source of knowledge, scholarship, outreach, and education, to respond to the effects of globalization in local communities, both rural and urban, following the land-grant model.
- To support sustained research to understand the immigration process in Missouri in particular and the Midwest in general.
- To provide knowledge and best practices to facilitate a smooth integration of economically vulnerable newcomers to Missouri and the Midwest, and prepare all citizens for a diverse society.
- To provide an institutional scholarly base to extend the Cambio de Colores initiative beyond the scope of the annual conferences, sustaining immigration-related research and outreach work of the university
- International Mission: With Latin America as a major trading partner, and a major source of the Latino labor force in our state, understanding the international nature of the immigration process, the cultures and institutions (economic and social) of Latin America, and their experiences with immigration, can contribute to our knowledge. These collaborations will provide opportunities to better educate our faculty, students, and communities. We aim to develop the conditions for comparative studies of current push and pull immigration processes in the Americas, in collaboration with Latin American universities.

Scope of Activities

1. Cambio de Colores conference (lead institutional role)

- Annual 3-day conference (state-of-the-art research, outreach, and best practices)
- Edition and publication of conference proceedings
- Online library of resources, outputs and linkages
- Networking and linkages of communities of practice using mainly IT facilities (bulletin boards, electronic list servers)
- One Day Cambio de Colores events focused on addressing specific topics or regions
- Collaborating with other states: working with universities and centers of immigration and Latino Studies both in research/extension.

2. Research on Latinos, Communities, and Economic Development

- Applied research on the issues of immigration, context of reception, economic and community development
- Promoting scholarship of faculty and graduate students on Latinos and immigration in Missouri
- Mentoring research with undergraduates and advising graduate students
- Collaboration across states on rural immigration issues affecting Missouri and the Midwest region.
- Publications of proceedings, journals, reports, and collaboration with Latinos in Missouri, Missouri Action Research Connection (MARC), Rural Sociology, OSEDA and others.

3. Education- Strengthening training in disciplines relevant to cultural competence in a diverse Missouri

- Context of reception: responding to the needs of changing communities
- Law/Civil Rights: immigration law, racial profiling
- Health: approaches in accessing culturally competent health, policy issues, training, and best practices
- Social Sciences: economic integration, globalization, immigration, community development, trade, leadership development
- Education: early childhood, English Language Learners K-12, higher education, adult education, mentoring
- Social Work: youth and families wellbeing
- Agriculture: Latinos in agriculture, including producers and migrant farm workers
- Journalism: coverage of Latinos, and Latinos in the media business
- Language skills

4. Outreach- Strengthening the network of community-based and business organizations, practitioners, educators, and researchers through Cambio de Colores in the state and the Midwest

The Cambio de Colores conferences have become a de-facto resource and networking hub for several state and local-government agencies involved in services to the immigrant population. Educational and other institutions have also shown an interest. Those relationships need to continue as part of the Center with the Center serving as a hub for the development of these networks.

- State agencies: Attorney General, DESE, DED, HSS, Higher Ed., Revenue, Social Services, Mental Health

- Local governments: city and county offices of education, health, civil rights, community development
- Higher education institutions: UM system, SMSU, SEMO, SLU
- Collaborating with higher education and extension institutions in Missouri and other states
- Latino grassroots and promotion organizations (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, advocacy groups, Centros Latinos, Guadalupe Center)
- Governor's Commission of Hispanic Affairs

Cambio Center Fellows

University teaching, research, and outreach professionals that contribute to Cambio de Colores will be invited to become affiliated fellows of the center.

- **MU:** faculty of the following MU schools have indicated willingness to be part of the Center: College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Education, Journalism, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Social Work
- **University of Missouri Extension regional faculty** (Springfield, Carthage, Warsaw, St. Charles, and others). These include faculty in the Community Development and Alianzas programs.
- **Other UM system institutions** taking part in Cambio de Colores planning:
University of Missouri – Kansas City (Law; Human Development)
University of Missouri – St. Louis (Public Policy; Continuing Education)
- **Other educational institutions**
Saint Louis University
Michigan State University
Iowa State University
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Columbia Public Schools

On line References

- Cambio de Colores conferences Web site: <http://www.cambiodecolores.org/> (also reachable through www.decolores.missouri.edu). To understand the scope of the issues, please consult the programs of each of the three conferences.
- Sylvia R. Lazos Vargas, School of Law & Stephen C. Jeanetta, Community Development Extension Program, University of Missouri-Columbia: *Cambio de Colores. Immigration of Latinos to Missouri*, MU Extension, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2002. Foreword by Dr. Manuel Pacheco. (Available online for download at: <http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/commdm/dm7615.htm>)
- Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED): "Missouri Hispanic Population Doubles from 1990 – 2000," Trendletter, April, 2001. (<http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/trendltr/yr2001/hispanic.html>)

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