



CAMBIO DE COLORES REVIEW: June 10-12, 2015.
Fourteenth Cambio de Colores – Latinos in the Heartland
conference: *Shaping the Future: Leadership for Inclusive Communities.*

Between June 10 and 12, the University of Missouri-Kansas City hosted the Fourteenth “Cambio de Colores” Conference (Change of Colors). The meeting was attended by more than 165 participants from 17 states. The conference’s theme, “Shaping the Future: Leadership for Inclusive Communities”, aimed to highlight the important role of leaders within Latino, immigrant, and receiving communities, and the contributions they make in creating strong and resilient places.

The three days of conference featured 24



breakout sessions - eight of them workshops – with a total of 50 presentations on a variety of themes, including civic engagement, changing

communities, dual language education, economic development, education, English Language Learners, health and youth development. Four plenary sessions were also held, featuring prominent keynote speakers: Dr. Katherine Richardson Bruna (School of Education at Iowa State University), John Fierro (President/CEO of Mattie Rhodes Center), Dr. Kathryn L. Fuger (Research associate of UMKC’s Institute for Human Development), Mario Hernández (VP and COO of the Latino Economic Development Center of Minnesota), and Dr. Bridget McCandless (President/CEO of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City).

Devoted to the exchange of ideas, research, and experiences in the field, the Cambio de Colores Conference benefited from the participation of a great number of experts. Many of them graciously shared their powerpoint presentations for those unable to attend, which are uploaded on the [website](#) (click on the title of the presentation to open the materials).

In an already established tradition, Cambio de Colores organized a thematic group discussion where attendees discussed and brainstormed about challenges around a specific theme area (you can download the idea exchange notes [here](#)). Also, the conference included site visits to some of Kansas City’s exemplary organizations and agencies: Hispanic Economic Development Corporation, Alta Vista Charter School, Kansas City Public School’s New American Academy, Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center and Mattie Rhodes Center. During these visits, participants had the opportunity to get to know the work of these organizations to support the integration of newcomers into the social and economic fabrics of the community.



See the site: www.CambioDeColores.org

As part of the social agenda, on Thursday's afternoon (June 11), attendees and community members enjoyed a play called "Vang: A Drama about Recent Immigrant Farmers", by Poet Laureate of Iowa Mary Swander, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Dennis Chamberlin, and ACT Kennedy Center award-winner Matt Foss. This two-person play portrayed the story of the arrival of recent immigrant farmers, and opened a discussion about the process of arriving to and settling in America, and immigrants' integration into a larger agricultural picture.

This energetic annual meeting, made up of people from different disciplines, locations, and approaches to immigrant integration, continues to grow. As a result, new ideas are fostered through the exchanges of research and best practices across many fields. The diverse and enthusiastic participation in this conference demonstrates the relevance and urgency of addressing both the challenges and the opportunities that arise in Missouri and other new destination states as Latinos and other newcomers settle as workers, families, and members of communities.

READ MORE: The presentations available are: ["Immigrants as Assets: Framing the Discussion in Policy, Media and the Community"](#) - Denzil Mohammed and Chiara Magini – The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

["Kansas City's Latino Civic Engagement Collaborative: Utilizing the Hispanic Needs Assessment as an Impetus for Action"](#) - John Fierro – Mattie Rhodes Center; Kathryn Fuger – University of Missouri-Kansas City, Institute for Human Development; Carlos Gomez – Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City

["Latinos in the Media: The Value of Critical Media Literacy"](#), Jessica Sierk – University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Extension

["Assessing Learning Skills and Knowledge of Latino Farmers and Ranchers in Missouri: An Assessment to Curricula Evaluation"](#) - Eleazar U. Gonzalez – University of Missouri-Columbia

["Multicultural Needs Assessment of Extension Educators - Oklahoma Cooperative Extension"](#) - Maria G. (Lupita) Fabregas Janeiro, Joyce Sherrer, and Jorge H. Atiles – Oklahoma State University

["Building a Comprehensive Plan for Reaching Minorities through Extension: Avoiding Isolated Approaches"](#) - Maria G. (Lupita) Fabregas Janeiro and Jorge H. Atiles – Oklahoma State University

["Cross-Cultural Experiential Learning in El Salvador"](#) - Nadia Navarrete-Tindall – Lincoln University

Education

["Planning Dual Language Schools in Rural and Urban Areas: Promising Practices and Consideration"](#) - Lisa Dorner – University of Missouri; Daisy Collins – Missouri State University; Allyson Hile – Kansas City Public Schools; Jana Sawyer – Carthage Public Schools

["Educational Language Policy and the New Latino Diaspora in Iowa"](#) - David Cassels Johnson, Stephanie Lynch, and Crissa Stephens – University of Iowa

["Children of Immigrants, Legal Status, and Everyday Civic Work: Lessons for Citizenship Education"](#) - Lisa Dorner and Emily Crawford – University of Missouri -Columbia

Health

["Developing a Behavioral Health Career Pipeline for Latino Youth in Nebraska"](#) - Athena Ramos – University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Center for Reducing Health Disparities (CRHD); Ann Kraft – Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska; Natalia Trinidad and Antonia Correa – UNMC CRHD

["Health Care Access in Missouri: A Profile of the Latino Community"](#) - Steve Jeanetta and Maria Rodriguez Alcala - University of Missouri-Columbia; Ioana Staiculescu and Shannon Canfield - MU Center for Health Policy

["Improving the Health of Hispanic Families with an Extension Community-Based Curriculum Abriendo Caminos"](#) - Margarita Teran-Garcia and Angela R. Wiley – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Entrepreneurship

["Latino Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Lessons from Yesterday and for Tomorrow"](#) - Mario Hernández - Latino Economic Development Center for Minnesota

Learn more about the Cambio de Colores conference, at www.CambioDeColores.org. The conference is organized by the University of Missouri's [Cambio Center](#), in cooperation with the [NCERA 216](#), and a Planning Committee of leaders from across the Midwest.