

Dear Friend: You are invited to submit a proposal to present at the “Working with Latinos/Hispanics in the U.S.A.” Conference, October 27-29, 2004. The University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, is interested in presentations that encompass a wide range of disciplines regarding knowledge about Latinos/Hispanics in the United States. The audience for this conference is composed of professionals (primarily Extension professionals) who serve, among others, a Latino/Hispanic clientele. These professionals could improve their services by learning valuable information on the following topics, as they pertain to Latinos/Hispanics reality in the U.S.:

- Health/Nutrition -- including ways in which Latinos/Hispanics people use traditional healers/ “curanderos” in relation to health care workers and naturopathy instead of modern medicine.
- Cultural differences among Latinos/Hispanics ethnic groups. Analysis of differences between new immigrants and those citizens who have been in the U.S. for a long time are also welcome.
- Migrant patterns (streams) for agricultural workers; their diversity; work related and ethical issues.
- Family structure and dynamics.
- Youth – focusing on drug-use and teen pregnancy prevention
- Community dynamics focusing on leadership
- Diversity – focusing on how to deal with oneself and with the diversity that Latinos/Hispanics represent in the U.S.
- Language: the challenge of translating educational material – keeping the integrity of meaning; is it possible to speak about a “mainstream” Spanish within Latinos/Hispanics groups in the U.S.? How do media corporations like Disney and Univision treat the delivery of Spanish, either in translating or in the delivery of programs targeted to Latinos/Hispanics audiences in the U.S.?
- Recruitment of volunteers and/or employees who will serve Latinos/Hispanics clientele (skills and criteria for recruitment).

The presentations should provide practical knowledge, based on a broad perspective of Latinos/Hispanics in the United States. The knowledge shared by presenters should be supported by empirical and cultural studies and be of help to professionals who service Latinos/Hispanics clientele. Specifically, we are interested in experts on the field which can summarize studies and research on the topics identified above. Based on how the Latinos/Hispanics population in the United States is growing and on its present and future impact within the U.S., it is important that service professionals understand the population they serve. It is important that the differences between ethnic groups are identified on the topics mentioned above, but is also crucial to understand common threads that allow professionals to design strategies for Latinos/Hispanics as a group. Latinos and Hispanic-Americans are staged to become the largest minority in the U.S. As a corollary, the impact of Latinos/Hispanics presence will be felt all over the nation. It is necessary to educate and sensitize professionals who will serve a Latinos/Hispanics clientele.

Proposals on any related topics will be considered. Presentation proposals will be evaluated on overall quality, timeliness of topic and practical application of the content material. Presenters selected for this conference receive a complimentary conference registration. Please submit your proposal by July 20, 2004. Program selections will be determined by August 10, 2004. We look forward to receiving your proposal.