Call for Abstracts

Cambio De Colores (Change of Colors) 2006
Latinos in Missouri: Beyond Borders
April 19-21, 2006
Stoney Creek Inn
Columbia, Missouri

www.cambiodecolores.org

Deadline for submitting abstracts is December 15th, 2005
Please send abstracts to decolores@missouri.edu

Cambio de Colores is an annual conference that brings together researchers, practitioners, and community members to discuss the issues that Missouri faces as a result of demographic changes reflected in the 2000 Census, especially related to the increase of Latino or Hispanic population in most state counties. Cambio de Colores is a collaboration among the University of Missouri campuses and Extension, other educational institutions in the state, as well as government and private organizations, that brings together those working in Latino/a communities to address critical needs and promote networks, so that the resources and capabilities available can be accessible to Missouri’s communities and organizations.

The 2006 program, while continuing to examine how research informs policy and practice, will explore how the flows of people, goods and information are changing our notions of what constitutes a border. To what extent are Missouri’s experiences similar and different from other states in the region? In what ways do Latinos from different countries and regions within countries differ from each other and at what level do these differences matter? How do sending and receiving community experiences impact health, education, legal, and political systems in Missouri?

The conference program builds on the sharing of university and community resources ranging from academic studies to the practice perspective of those working at “ground zero” as well as the everyday experiences of non-professionals. Each year the breadth of the program has expanded as we become more experienced in working through the challenges and opportunities offered by our newest residents.

The 2006 conference will continue to provide a platform to discuss, learn and identify critical areas of need in developing information and best practices to facilitate the successful transition of Latino newcomers into Missouri’s communities.
This is a call for abstracts for research and best practice presentations. There are five themes (explained later in this document) that provide the framework for the deliberations:

1. **Change and Well Being: Economic, Social, Cultural, and Political Participation**
2. **Civil Rights**
3. **Education**
4. **Health**
5. **Youth, Families, and Communities**

All submitted abstracts should relate broadly to one or more of the themes and specifically to the theme issues outlined below. Those with selected abstracts will be invited to submit papers to be published on the Cambio de Colores 2006 website. Some of the submitted papers will also be published in Cambio de Colores 2006 Proceedings. For a sample of previous years’ proceedings, please go to Cambio de Colores Web site at [http://www.cambiodecolores.org/](http://www.cambiodecolores.org/) and review the Program pages of the archival Web sites.

**Papers selected for the program will be submitted in electronic format by February 21, 2006 to decolores@missouri.edu**

The conference will be composed of five different learning tracks with plenary sessions addressing each of the themes. Breakout sessions will provide a forum for sharing research, best practices, and workshops. In addition, on the last day learning stations will provide presenters an opportunity to share their research or practice with small groups in 15 minute presentations. Each learning station will repeat its presentations three times.
TO PREPARE AN ABSTRACT:

Please indicate whether your abstract is a:

- □ Panel Presentation (20 minutes each speaker)
- □ Research Paper Presentation (15 minutes)
- □ Best Practice Paper Presentation (15 minutes)
- □ Workshop (up to 75 minutes)
- □ Learning Station (15 minutes)

Abstract content:

Please include the following in the abstract:

1. Title of the abstract
2. Contact information of the author(s): Name, Address, Phone, Email, Title and Organization
3. The theme the abstract is designed to address
4. Whether the presentation is research or best practice; if research, please specify methodology (qualitative, quantitative, case study, etc.)
5. Summary of the presentation include an explanation of how research is linked to policy or practice (500 words or less)
6. Focus of the presentation: local, state, or national level
7. Intention to have the paper considered for inclusion in a conference proceedings publication

Committees have been formed around each theme, and they will evaluate and select the abstracts based on the descriptions provided below. As soon as the selection of presentations is completed, you will be informed via e-mail whether your abstract has been accepted (first week of January 2006), and you will receive further information and instructions.

If you need assistance about abstract preparation and submission, or about the pertinence of a submission, please send a message with your questions to the e-mail address provided.

All presenters will be responsible for their own travel expenses and conference registration fees.

Please submit abstracts electronically to:

decolores@missouri.edu

Deadline for submitting abstracts is December 15th, 2005.
Description of the Conference Themes:

Change and Well Being: Economic, Social, Cultural, and Political Participation
Missouri’s rising Latino population has affected communities, organizations and institutions, and given birth to many programs and practices across the state. Taking the learning, research and experience of best practices to the next step of informing policy is the goal of this year’s Change and Well Being theme. It also seeks to learn from other experiences in the Midwest and beyond. Submissions which address the opportunities, vulnerabilities, uniqueness, and commonalities associated with urban and rural Latinos in the areas of economic development, cultural diversity, and policy leadership are encouraged.

Civil Rights
With the dual goals of raising awareness about the legal challenges that Missouri Latino immigrants face and of finding the best tools to address these challenges, the civil rights panel of the 2006 Cambio de Colores conference invites the submission of abstracts that further these goals. The abstracts may be about topics to be presented at the conference, research to be published as part of the conference proceedings, or resources to be shared with conference participants.

The focus of the 2006 civil rights panel will be on positive legal changes for which Latino immigrants and their advocates can and should strive. In this post 9/11 environment of anti-immigrant sentiments, we believe it is important to move forward with an agenda to improve the legal rights of immigrants, rather than just play defense to preserve the legal status quo. In particular, we are interested in building a legislative agenda based on the priorities established by Latino immigrant communities and supported by current research.

Education
Education plays an important role in the lives of Latinos in the Unites States. Cambio de Colores is interested in exploring educational issues, policies and practices that impact Latino/a learners of all ages. Key research/policy themes include (but are not limited to): the impact of culture on students’ academic achievement, assessment of the multicultural training in teacher training programs, the role of multicultural teaching competencies in Latinos’ learning and academic achievement, implications of the No Child Left Behind Act on the education of Latino/as, student retention issues, and effective programs and best practice strategies.
Health
Panels, presentations and workshops will focus on physical and mental health as they relate to rural and urban Latino communities. Key research themes could include: barriers to health care access and strategies to overcome them, impact of sending community health practices on immigrants’ health status, and policies and education programs that address the needs of Latinos. Best practices could include: use of networks to improve health status, communication strategies that work, effective community-based health care programs, and incorporation of diverse cultural beliefs into health care strategies.

Youth, Families, and Communities
Persons with information and programming experiences related to Youth, Families, and Communities are strongly encouraged to respond to this call for abstracts. We are looking for abstracts that include practical ideas for implementation and evaluation of programs and services. Of particular interest are presenters willing to share “Best Practices” strategies so that workshop participants will be better equipped to replicate and evaluate the programs or services in their respective communities.