



**Thirteenth Annual Conference**  
***Latinos in the Heartland:  
Growing Together in New  
Destination Areas***

**PRESENTER BIOS**  
**(DRAFT)**

*This draft document is intended for the convenience and exclusive use of conference participants. Bios will be published in the book of Proceedings.*

*Bios are listed by the author's last name.*

## **A**

### ***Johnny Alcívar Zúñiga***

*Iowa State University*

Johnny Alcívar Zúñiga is a graduate student at Iowa State University. Originally from Ecuador, he arrived to the United States at the age of 12. He experienced the struggles of a first generation immigrant growing up in New Jersey. Motivated by this experience, his journey led him to Iowa where he finished his undergraduate degree in Political Science and International Studies in 2010 and is currently concluding his master's degree in Community and Regional Planning. Throughout his studies his research has focused on the Latino/a population and has been actively involved in student groups enhancing the Latino/a experience in higher education.

## **B**

### ***Jo Britt-Rankin***

*University of Missouri Extension*

Dr. Jo Britt-Rankin received her Bachelor's degree in Human Development & Family Studies from the University of Illinois in 1989. She went on to receive her Master's degree in Nutrition from the University of Missouri—Columbia in 1992. She then earned her doctorate in 2000 from the University of Missouri. She has held a variety of higher educational positions.

Dr. Britt-Rankin currently serves as Associate Dean/Program Director for Human Environmental Sciences Extension at the University of Missouri. In this position, she has statewide responsibility for design, implementation and evaluation of educational programs developed by faculty in the areas of Personal Financial Planning, Housing & Environmental Design, Family Strengthening, Nutritional, Health & Physical Activity and Food Safety. Dr. Britt-Rankin holds the rank of Extension Professor and serves as the Administrative Director of the EFNEP and SNAP Ed programs.

Dr. Britt-Rankin also serves as a Facilitator for the Mizzou Advantage Food for the Future Initiative. This strategic initiative is lead through the Provost's office and is comprised of four dynamic initiatives that are collectively called the Mizzou Advantage. The Food for the Future Initiative capitalizes on MU's strengths in Food Production; Food Systems; Food Security; Food and Health; and Food in Society.

## **C**

### ***Roger Campos***

*Minority Business RoundTable*

Roger Campos is the president, CEO, and founder of Minority Business RoundTable, the first national organization for CEOs of the nation's leading minority-owned businesses. MBRT provides a forum for the 6 million CEOs of minority and women-owned businesses to address public policy issues, and serves as a unique resource on business issues, including access to capital and doing business with the federal government.

***Shannon Canfield***

*Center for Health Policy, University of Missouri*

Mrs. Canfield has an MPH and over five years of research planning and project management, with expertise in community program development and advocacy, health information technology (HIT) and global health. She has received all of her education from University of Missouri, including a bachelor's degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism and a master's degree of Public Health. She has worked with several University faculty on various grants focusing on topics including utilizing HIT to improve ambulatory chronic disease care, behavioral health research, and improving community health outcomes through academic-community collaboration. Her research experience includes both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. She has experience in community program development and advocacy and has worked on various campaigns for healthy lifestyle initiatives where policy change has been realized. Ms. Canfield's teaching experience includes global health and leading a study abroad program in Ghana. Currently, she serves as a Project Director for the Missouri Health Equity Collaborative and the MU Healthy Community Initiative project.

***Alison Copeland***

*4-H, University of Missouri Extension*

Alison Copeland is a State 4-H Youth Development Specialist and helps direct the 4-H Youth Futures College within Reach program. She has an undergraduate degree in Child Development, a graduate degree in Family Studies, and is currently finishing a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri.

***Anna Crosslin***

*International Institute of St. Louis*

Since 1978, Anna Crosslin has led the International Institute of St. Louis. Founded in 1919, the Institute provides English classes, job placement, counseling, micro-lending, refugee resettlement, and other integrative services to more than 7,500 immigrants from 75 countries annually. She has been instrumental in the founding and operation of the St. Louis Mosaic Project serving on the Steering Committee and as chair of its Infrastructure Committee. Founded in 2012, Mosaic is a St. Louis City/County initiative of business, government and community leaders dedicated to building St. Louis into the "Fastest growing region for immigrants by 2020."

Crosslin is the recipient of numerous recognitions and awards, including annual recognition for the past decade on the St. Louis Business Journal's "Most Influential St. Louisans." She is also a recipient of the Ramirez Esperanza Award from the Hispanic Leaders Group and Hispanic Business Advocate of the Year from the St. Louis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She has two honorary doctorates – one from Webster University and another from Washington University, her alma mater.

***Esmeralda Cruz***

*Community Schools of Frankfort, Indiana*

Esmeralda Cruz is originally from Mexico. She is currently a graduate student at Purdue University seeking her Master's degree in Youth Development and Agriculture Education. Her research interests include perceptions of adults, particularly teachers, of undocumented youth, bilingualism, access to higher education for Latino students, and immigration policy.

In 2009, she received the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders. Since 2010, she has served as a director of the Afterschool Tutoring Program for the Community Schools of Frankfort working with youth ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She has been invited to present her work on various local and national conferences, such as the Tri State Diversity Conference and the NACDEP Conference. In 2014, she was a guest speaker in various Purdue University classes on the topic of immigration.

***Teresa Curtis***

*University of Wisconsin Extension*

Teresa Curtis is a state specialist for the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Nutrition Education Program (WNEP). As a specialist for Diverse and Emerging Audiences, she is responsible for providing expertise and leadership to program planning, delivery, and evaluation as it relates to new, emerging, and underserved low-income audiences across the State. In addition, Teresa is facilitator for UW-Colleges and Extension's Multicultural Awareness Program; a member of the leadership team for Extension's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community of Practice; and a project leader for the Walk One Hour in My Shoes cultural competency/multicultural training program.

**D**

***Alexandra N. Davis***

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Alexandra N. Davis is a doctoral student at the University of Missouri in the department of Human Development and Family Studies. Her main research interests are in prosocial behaviors and positive social development of urban, minority adolescents, cultural and economic stress, and parent-adolescent relationships.

***James W. (Jim) Day***

*Primaris's CLAIM Program, Missouri*

Jim Day came to the CLAIM program in September, 2006 from the pastorate in the Washington DC suburbs. He has served as: Regional Liaison for Regions 3 & 5 covering 43 counties, Lead Regional Liaison & Liaison for Region 3, Trainer for Regions 1 & 3, and currently serves as the AmeriCorps Project Manager and Liaison for Region 3. He has successfully recruited over 80 volunteers, over 20 new community partners and participated in and/or planned over 400 outreach events including statewide conferences

and welcome to Medicare seminars. He authored the AmeriCorps grant application and successfully implemented program start up. Jim holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Missouri St. Louis with minors in both finance and economics and a Masters of Divinity in Christian Education from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY with an emphasis in Adult Education. In addition, he serves a part time pastoral appointment for the Missouri United Methodist Conference. Married 36 years, Jim and Carol have 2 grown daughters and 2 grandchildren.

***Lisa M. Dorner***

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Lisa M. Dorner, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Educational Policy at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her research centers on language policy and planning, educational policy implementation, and immigrant families, especially their integration in "new" spaces. In her work, she uses both qualitative and quantitative methods and has published in a variety of academic outlets, including: American Educational Research Journal, American Journal of Education, Educational Policy and the Journal of Educational Change. She also works with local agencies and educators to develop online curricula and conversations about the immigrant experience (see [www.lacesproject.org](http://www.lacesproject.org)).

**F**

***Lisa Y. Flores, Cambio Center***

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Lisa Flores is Associate Professor in MU's Educational, School and Counseling Psychology department. Her research areas include Mexican Americans' Educational and Career Development, Social Cognitive Career Theory, and Latino Immigrant Settlement and Transition Issues.

**G**

***Candance Gabel***

*University of Missouri Extension*

Candance Gabel, MS, RD, LD received her Bachelor's degree in Home Economics with an emphasis in Dietetics from Fort Hays State University in 1986. She completed a coordinated dietetic internship program and Master's degree program in Nutrition at the Houston VA Medical Center and Texas Women's University in 1987. Her career with MU Extension began in 1991 as a Regional Nutrition and Health Education Specialist in Southeast Missouri.

Candance currently serves as the Assistant Program Director for Human Environmental Sciences Extension at the University of Missouri. In this position, she has statewide responsibility for design, implementation and evaluation of educational programs developed by faculty in the areas of Personal Financial Planning, Housing & Environmental Design, Family Strengthening, Nutritional, Health & Physical Activity and Food Safety. She also provides leadership on search committees hiring faculty and staff. Candance holds the

rank of Extension Associate Professor and serves as the Curriculum and State Coordinator of the EFNEP and SNAP Ed programs.

***Fred Garcia***

*Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services*

Fred Garcia is a bilingual, bicultural state-certified social worker/supervisor employed by Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services. He has been in the Family Services Unit for the past 20 years, providing services to families and youth relating to delinquency, uncontrollable juveniles, truancy and other family issues. Mr. Garcia is a strong advocate for the Latino population and serves on a number of boards and committees relating to social issues facing today's minority youth and families.

***Eleazar U. González***

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Eleazar is a rural sociologist with interests in economic-sociology including social entrepreneurship, collective action, community development, and health literacy amongst Latino communities. He has experience in working with Latino communities in Missouri and the country of Mexico. Since 2003, Eleazar has worked in different projects seeking to improve socio-economic and health interaction of Latino immigrants into the United States, specifically in Missouri. Currently, he use most of his time in implementing a financial and community capacity -building program among beginning Latino farmers and ranchers in Missouri and Nebraska.

***Kimberly Greder***

*Iowa State University*

Kimberly Greder is an associate professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University. She co-leads Rural Families Speak about Health, a multi-state project focused on examining the mental and physical health of rural families with low incomes and young children. She is particularly interested in the health and well-being of Latino immigrant families.

***Vanessa Gutiérrez***

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Vanessa Gutiérrez is the Project Manager for the Pathways Project at the Family Resiliency Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Pathways Project is a longitudinal mixed-method study on adolescent development in the context of youth programs. She has been involved in the project for over three years. She also attained her M.A. in Social Science at the University of Chicago.

**H**

***Marta Rodriguez Hubert***

*University of Wisconsin Extension*

Marta Rodriguez Hubert has been with the UW-Extension Nutrition Education Program since the fall of 2003. She began as a Bilingual Nutrition Educator and is currently the Bilingual Family Living Coordinator. Her work focuses on the Hispanic community. She taught elementary age youth at Blair, Whittier and White Rock Schools and teens in the 4-H LaTEENo program, Dousman migrant farm, School Age Parents at Risk (SAPAR), Junior Academic Work & Service (JAWS), and the 180<sup>o</sup> Juvenile Diversion Program. Martha also works with adults at the Women's Center, Head Start, and individual home visits. Her work prior to UW-Extension was teaching Spanish at St. Joseph's Elementary and Middle School. She also worked with special needs students at Brown Deer Middle and High School. She is a 2006 graduate of the Latino Nonprofit Leadership Program funded by UW Milwaukee and Cardinal Stritch University. Along with two colleagues and direction from UW-Extension and Latino Nonprofit Leadership Program, Martha helped in the creation and development of 'Walk One Hour in My Shoes' workshop.

***Alejandra Hoyos***

*4-H Youth Futures Volunteer*

Alejandra Hoyos is a graduate of the 4-H Youth Futures College within Reach program and currently attends Moberly Area Community College. She serves as the leader for a Youth Future program in Columbia by facilitating meetings and communicating with youth participants about college.

**I**

***Maria I. Iturbide***

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Maria I. Iturbide is a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her program of research focuses on understanding factors associated with adolescent well-being. Specifically, her research has centered on ethnic minority parenting, ethnic identity, acculturation, and their links to adolescent risk behavior and positive adaptation.

**J**

***Stephen C. Jeanetta***

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Stephen Jeanetta joined the University of Missouri (MU) Community Development Program faculty as State Extension Specialist for Community Development Process in December 1998, where he serves as coordinator for the Community Development Academy and provides leadership to programs in Organizational Development and Nonprofit Management, Community and Economic Planning and Building Inclusive Communities. Jeanetta has a Ph.D. in Adult Education from the University of Missouri in St. Louis and an M.A. in Community and Regional Planning, and a B.S. in International Affairs from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Steve has conducted community development programs in

the Amazon region of Brazil, Guyana, Canada, and Germany. Jeanetta is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cambio Center at MU and he serves as the executive director of the Missouri/Para Chapter of the Partners of the Americas. He is interested in programs that build the capacity of communities and community organizations so they can better understand and address the issues presented by recent population changes.

## **K**

### ***Lydia Kaume***

*University of Missouri Extension*

Dr. Lydia Kaume is a Nutrition and Health Education Specialist (NHES) at the University of Missouri Extension, Headquartered at the Barton County Extension Center. As a NHES and consultant Lydia provides nutrition, health, food safety and physical activity promotion education to individuals, families and communities in Southwest Missouri in partnership with state and community agencies. She serves seven counties in SW MO including, Barton, Jasper, Dade, Newton, Lawrence, Barry, and McDonald, Lydia holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree from the University of Arkansas, USA. Her Bachelor's degree in Education is from Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya. Before her position at the University of Missouri, Lydia worked as a high school instructor in Kenya for 8 years. She then joined a research team as research assistant and project coordinator at the University of Arkansas, where she worked on several human nutrition research projects investigating the effects of bioactive compounds on chronic conditions. Dr. Kaume is a recipient of several scholarships and awards, and has authored and co-authored several technical and non-technical papers.

### ***Judy Keseman***

*Primaris/CLAIM Program, Columbia, Missouri*

Judy Keseman joined the CLAIM-Primaris team in July 2008. Her initial responsibilities included managing and coordinating Medicare Extra Help Grants for CLAIM. This included work with collaborative partners and CLAIM volunteers through the state of Missouri to reach Medicare beneficiaries in need of assistance to pay for their medications. In all grants, Judy trained and educated volunteers and professionals around the state on Extra Help programs available to beneficiaries. Judy was also responsible for networking with state and community agencies and programs sharing similar missions and goals. In addition to Medicare Extra Help Grant management, Judy has also undertaken responsibility for the coordination of CLAIM's Outreach Program and daily management of CLAIM's customer service Call Center.

As an employee of Pimaris, Judy was also Program Manager for a large custom medical record abstraction project for the Battelle Corporation and the Science Panel of Emory University. She managed a 24 person team responsible for the acquisition and abstraction of over 25,000 medical records form 4,000 doctors, clinics, and hospitals nationwide. Judy contributes 36 years of healthcare experience encompassing management positions in acute care hospital settings, provider offices, and healthcare consulting. Judy holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a degree in Applied Science from Penn Valley Community College in Medical Record Science.

***Kimberly Kester***

*Missouri Southern State University, Joplin*

Kimberly Kester is an assistant professor and the director of the International English Program at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri. She holds a B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and a M. Ed in TESOL from Grand Canyon University. She is currently pursuing her Ed.D. in International Education from Northcentral University. Her dissertation research focuses on the education of Saudi Arabian students studying in American universities and how to increase their academic success. Kimberly is a spokesperson for the Islamic Society of Joplin and presents educational lectures on the basics of Islam to area colleges, schools, churches and other organizations. She is originally from Wyandotte, OK and settled down in Joplin, MO four years ago after her husband retired from active duty military service.

***Jill F. Kilanowski***

*Michigan State University*

Jill F. Kilanowski, is an associate professor at the College of Nursing at Michigan State University and serves as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurses and is serving on the National Advisory Council of Migrant Health for the Health Resources and Service Administration. Prior to her position at Michigan State, she was affiliated with Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio where she completed a National Institutes of Health KL2 career development award. She was a nurse scientist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and faculty at Capital University in Columbus. Dr. Kilanowski earned her doctorate at The Ohio State University and her undergraduate and Masters degree at Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Kilanowski's program of research explores the health of children in migrant farmworker families. She has examined food frequencies, physical activity, food security, acculturation, and safety and has conducted intervention studies in migrant camps and in Migrant Education Programs

***L***

***Lincoln Lambeth***

*College of the Ozarks, Missouri*

Dr. Lambeth has taught college-level Spanish since 1987, and currently holds the position of Professor of Spanish at the College of the Ozarks, just south of Branson, Missouri. Among the courses he teaches, two (Latinos in the United States and Spanish for Agriculture) especially involve educating members of host communities about the history and cultures of Spanish-speakers in this country. He is also a Certified Court Interpreter for Spanish in the state of Missouri, and has regular contact with Spanish-speakers who are in one way or another involved in the criminal justice system.

**Sylvia Lazos**

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Sylvia Lazos is a Justice Myron Leavitt Professor of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is the co-founder of Alliance of Latina/os & Chicana/os in Higher Education and, a member of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. As a constitution and critical race scholar, she has written exhaustively on how constitutional norms can accommodate a new American reality that is increasingly multicultural, multiracial and multiethnic. Her current research interests focus on the importance of the judiciary being diverse, the impact of rapid immigration growth on intergroup relations, and how to fashion constitutional interpretive norms to promote better cross-racial understanding.

**M****Kathy Macomber**

*University of Missouri Extension*

Ms. Macomber is a Community Development Specialist at the University of Missouri Extension, headquartered in Barton County. As a CD specialist, Macomber provides facilitation and education for strategic planning, management, marketing, and finance and works with nonprofits and communities to increase the capacity of organizations to achieve their goals and improve their communities. Macomber serves six counties including, Barton, Cedar, Dade, Jasper, Newton and Vernon. Macomber is currently ABD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri, has a Master's degree in Administrative Studies from Missouri State University, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Bemidji State University in Minnesota. Prior to joining Extension, Macomber worked in corporate finance at Leggett & Platt, Inc. Macomber has presented nationally on Social Media Marketing.

Rebecca was born in Los Angeles, California. Growing up, she was able to learn both English and Spanish. After completing high school, she joined the Air Force and served for 4 years. While in the Air Force she met her husband, JB. After leaving the Air Force, Rebecca enrolled at Longview Community College where she received her Associate Degree. The family moved to Whiteman AFB, where Rebecca enrolled at the University of Central Missouri. In 1982, Rebecca received her Bachelor Degree in Education with a Specialist Degree in Spanish. Rebecca taught 3rd grade for 13 years. During this time she became involved with Migrant Education and English as a Second Language. In 2004, she received her Master's Degree in English as a Second Language. For the past 9 years, Rebecca has been employed by the Central Regional Professional Development Center where she works with the Migrant English Language Learner (MELL) program of DESE. She has worked with school districts who have migrant students and students who do not speak English. She is a certified Shelter Instruction Observational Protocol (SIOP) trainer and a World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Trainer.

**Rubén Martinez**

*Michigan State University*

Rubén Martinez is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute. He is leading the interstate initiative, NCERA: Latinos and Immigrants in Midwestern communities.

**Bertha Mendoza**

*Kansas State University Research and Extension*

Bertha Mendoza has worked for Kansas State University Research and Extension Southwest Area as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Agent in Southwest Kansas since 2009. Bertha's special field of interest is Nutrition, Health, and Education. She believes in the importance of literacy as the primary road to success in life.

**Sonia G. Morales Osegueda**

*Washington State University Extension*

Sonia G. Morales O. joined Washington State University Extension in 1999 as a Faculty in King County. Currently she is a Diversity Specialist / Agriculture / Youth Development 4-H Faculty. Sonia's responsibilities include diversity, overseeing the development of Extension 4-H youth development programs in non-traditional populations. Sonia provides leadership in 4-H Youth Development; promote higher education; developing curricula focused on skills and volunteer development, and cultural competency; provides trainings in the areas of youth agriculture, cultural competency, volunteerism, and skills development. She has served as chair of the Ad Hoc Diversity Committee for MANRRS National Society; as a Latino Outreach Task Force WSU Extension Team; Peer Review Panel for several research, teaching, and extension Grant Programs at NIFA-USDA Washington, DC; and board member of several educational organizations. Dr. Morales has published articles, in Crop Breeding, Agronomy, Agricultural Extension, Education, volunteerism, and Cultural Diversity. She also has been invited to present more than one hundred professional paper at local, national and international conferences. Sonia is WSU Coalition Team member for serving non- U.S. citizens' students who qualify for admissions to higher education as allowed by WA House Bill HB-1079.

**Rebecca Mott**

*University of Missouri Extension*

Rebecca Mott earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Missouri in 1995 and a teacher colloquy from Concordia University Nebraska in 2011. She spent fifteen years in the classroom in both public and private schools, teaching all grade levels of children from pre-school through high school. Subjects taught include Music, History, Language Arts and Religion.

Rebecca is pursuing a Master's degree in Agricultural Education with a specialization in Youth Development from the University of Missouri. She is currently conducting qualitative research on rural Missouri middle school aged youth perspectives on food

insecurity. Rebecca is employed with the department of Human Environmental Services Extension at the University of Missouri, where her responsibilities include supporting the Eating From the Garden Program.

**Lorraine Muñoz**

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Lorraine Muñoz is a senior majoring in Human Development and Family Studies and a minor in Latina/Latino Studies, at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Lorraine has been a research assistant starting her freshmen year, working on various research projects under three different faculty members in the Department of Human and Community Development. She participated in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. She is the undergraduate vice president of Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences, which is a professional development club that participates in conferences and presents research. Lorraine is currently working on an independent study project examining the impact of gender, age, and ethnicity on parent-adolescent decision-making process. Her research interests include Latino family dynamics, migration, positive youth development, adolescents, parents, and parent-adolescent interaction. She will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the Department of Human and Community Development doctoral graduate program, where she plans to continue researching Latino families.

**N**

**David Nehrt-Flores**

*Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, St. Louis*

David Nehrt-Flores, MSW, MPA is the organizer for Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (MIRA). At MIRA, David has continued the coalition's organizational efforts and programs including, Know Your Rights trainings. These trainings review individual's legal rights when confronted by local and national law enforcement as well as individual's rights in areas of housing and education. In addition David has aided in the development of new avenues for Welcoming work and immigrant outreach. David serves on the leadership team for Educators for Social Justice in St. Louis and as coalition member of Drone Free St. Louis.

**O**

**Kate Olson**

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Kate Olson is a second year doctoral student in Public Affairs at the Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri. Her research interests include migration, social policy, integration and topics concerning immigrant and refugee populations. Kate is from Minnesota and her educational background is in public administration and cultures and development studies (social and cultural anthropology). In her free time, Kate likes to travel, go for walks, learn languages and read.

## **P**

### ***Josemir Carolaine Peroza***

*University of Missouri-St. Louis*

Josemir Carolaine Peroza came to the United States as an international student from Maracay, Venezuela. She completed her bachelor's degree in International Business at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). At UMSL, Carolaine served as the president of the Hispanic Latino Association in 2010. She is currently working under Optional Practical Training for Latin-Pak and will soon move to a transnational company. In her free time, she works as a freelance mediator for South American clients. Carolaine won an international modeling competition in 2010, which led her to start her own modeling agency. She manages over 135 international models. Carolaine also serves as a big sister through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in St. Louis, and enjoys spending time with and being a role model for her little sister.

### ***Christina Veloso Pope***

*University of Missouri-St. Louis*

Christina Veloso Pope is an international student advisor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Prior to joining the UMSL team, Christina worked on immigrant integration initiatives at the non-profit CASA de Maryland. In 2011 she became a loyal fan of Recife, Brazil, where she spent the year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. Christina holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies and Comparative Literature from Oberlin College. She is passionate about improving immigrants' access to education and services to promote vibrant, empowered communities. Christina enjoys writing, singing, and traveling, especially to her grandparents' home country, Portugal.

### ***Alejandro Portes***

*Princeton University*

Alejandro Portes is Professor of Sociology and founding director of the Center for Migration and Development at Princeton University. Dr. Portes is also Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Miami and has taught at John Hopkins University, Duke University, and University of Texas-Austin. He has written extensively on national development, international migration, Latin American and Caribbean urbanization, and economic sociology. His current research is on the adaptation process of the immigrant second generation in comparative perspective, the roles of institutions in national development, and immigrant transnationalism.

### ***Stephanie Potochnick***

*University of Missouri-Columbia*

Stephanie Potochnick, Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Public Health, MU's Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs. Her research examines the social demography of immigration and how programs and policies can promote the education and health of immigrant youth. She has developed an interdisciplinary perspective that

examines how social, political, and economic constraints influence immigrant assimilation and shape the context of migrant reception.

## **R**

### ***Marcela Raffaelli***

*University of Illinois*

Marcela Raffaelli studies child and adolescent development in culturally and economically diverse families. She received her B.A. from Williams College and her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1990. She held post-doctoral positions at Johns Hopkins and Rutgers, and then was a faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before moving to the University of Illinois in 2008. Her research focuses on gender and sexuality, immigrant adaptation, and child development under conditions of stress and socioeconomic deprivation. A central feature of this work is the application of models of developmental risk and resilience to immigrant and impoverished youth and their families.

### ***Larry Roberts***

*University of Missouri Extension*

Larry Roberts serves as the State Coordinator for the Eating From the Garden program. He has been a Nutrition Program Associate in Camden County for the past thirteen years. Before coming to University of Missouri Extension, Larry spent seven years as the Food Service director at a public school. Larry is also a working chef and Master Gardener.

### ***Flor Romero de Slowing***

*Iowa State University*

Flor is a doctoral student in Human Development and Family Studies. She holds a master in International Development. She is originally from Guatemala where she worked as a dietitian. Her research interests include Latina immigrants' health beliefs and health competence and the cultural competence of health care providers serving Latino populations.

## **S**

### ***Ness Sandoval***

*Saint Louis University*

Ness Sandoval is an Associate Professor and Director of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Saint Louis University. His research interests focus on Urban Sociology, Spatial Statistics, Social-Environmental Synthesis, Racial Inequality, Spatial Demography and Criminology, and Latino Sociology.

### ***Rebecca Marrujo Smith***

*Central Regional Professional Development Center, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg*

Rebecca was born in Los Angeles, California. Growing up, she was able to learn both English and Spanish. After completing high school, she joined the Air Force and served for 4 years. While in the Air Force she met her husband, JB. After leaving the Air Force, Rebecca enrolled at Longview Community College where she received her Associate Degree. The family moved to Whiteman AFB, where Rebecca enrolled at the University of Central Missouri. In 1982, Rebecca received her Bachelor Degree in Education with a Specialist Degree in Spanish. Rebecca taught 3rd grade for 13 years. During this time she became involved with Migrant Education and English as a Second Language. In 2004, she received her Master's Degree in English as a Second Language. For the past 9 years, Rebecca has been employed by the Central Regional Professional Development Center where she works with the Migrant English Language Learner (MELL) program of DESE. She has worked with school districts who have migrant students and students who do not speak English. She is a certified Shelter Instruction Observational Protocol (SIOP) trainer and a World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Trainer.

***Ioana Staiculescu***

*Center for Health Policy, University of Missouri-Columbia*

Ioana Staiculescu, MPH has more than five year experience working on health disparities projects and health literacy education activities, with focus on both quantitative and qualitative methods. She has coordinated a diverse range of projects focusing on access to health care services for vulnerable populations, like immigrants, refugees and individuals with underlying mental health conditions. She published on availability of interpretation services for Limited English Proficiency patients, health literacy and ways to improve the patient-provider communication. Staiculescu graduated with a Master's in Public Health from the University of Missouri focused on health promotion and policy. Her primary research interests are health disparities and health literacy

**T**

***María F. Tineo***

*Purdue University*

Maria is a second generation immigrant from the Dominican Republic, also living for several years in New York City. She did her undergraduate studies at Hunter College, NYC. In 2008, she came to Purdue University to study low-income families with children in Head Start. Her research interest also lies with examining mid-west cross cultural parenting practices with regards to better preparing bilingual young children for academic success. Currently, she is a doctorate candidate at Purdue University and a project coordinator at the Purdue Extension Learning Network of Clinton County. She has participated in various national conferences including Society of Research in Child Development (SRCD) and America Education Research Association (AERA). This coming fall, she will serve as a research engagement director for the Sunshine in the Backpack (SIAB) a non-profit organization that will serve at-risk children across developing countries with learning life tools that inspire them to lead fulfilling lives.

***Pablo Torres-Aguilar***

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Pablo Torres-Aguilar received his MSc. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His current research focuses on food insecurity and the impact of environmental factors on the diet of underserved groups, both in the US and internationally. He is currently transitioning to a doctoral program with a research emphasis on the effectiveness of policy interventions promoting food security and diet diversity.

**U**

***Adriano Udani***

*University of Missouri–St. Louis*

Adriano Udani is an Assistant Professor of Political Science with a joint appointment in the Public Policy Administration Program at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. His research specializes in the study of political attitudes toward immigrant groups and social policies on immigrant treatment in the United States. Currently, he is conducting a national study on how U.S. citizens' negative attitudes toward immigrants structure their perceptions of voter fraud in elections. Adriano received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota and his Master of Public Affairs from the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University.

**V**

***Corinne Valdivia***

*University of Missouri – Columbia*

Corinne Valdivia is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the Division of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Missouri (MU). Her research focuses on understanding how livelihood strategies develop in the context of change and strengths that lead to wellbeing. The research takes place in the United States, the Andes of Peru and Bolivia, Mexico, and East Africa. She is Faculty Fellow of the Cambio Center at MU, where she collaborates with colleagues from the University of Missouri on research about Latinos and integration. She recently completed a 4-year research project about Latino newcomers in rural communities of the Midwest funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). She also led an interdisciplinary program in the Andes, called Adapting to Change in Vulnerable Ecosystems, to develop adaptive capacities to climate change funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She directs the Interdisciplinary International Development Minor at the Graduate School. She received in 2008 the MU International Scholar Award for outstanding international engagement. In her spare time, she enjoys exercising, dancing, and more recently walking across northern Spain. In her travels, she loves learning from others and sharing experiences.

**W**

***Angela Wiley***

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Angela Wiley received her doctoral degree in developmental psychology from Clark University. Her research focuses on resilience factors across multiple contexts, ranging from parent-children vulnerability while living in stressful contexts to strategies to promote positive family functioning and physical wellness, specifically healthy weight and related outcomes (diabetes prevention). Besides research activities, Dr. Wiley leads outreach efforts as an Extension Specialist in Family Life and the Director of Child Care Resilience programs at the Child Care Resource and Referral Service.

***Michele Waslin***

*Immigration and the States Project, Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C.*

Michele Waslin is manager of the immigration and the states project at The Pew Charitable Trusts. The project examines the intersection of federal, state, and local immigration laws and policies and its impact on all levels of government. As lead on Pew's work on immigration, Waslin tracks and analyzes policy and public debate, writes on many related topics, coordinates Pew's research agenda, and builds relationships with academics and other experts. Waslin has authored several publications on immigration policy and has appeared in English- and Spanish-language media. Prior to joining Pew she worked as senior policy analyst at the Immigration Policy Center, a division of the American Immigration Council, as director of immigration policy research at the National Council of La Raza, and as policy coordinator at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Waslin holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Creighton University, a master's degree in international relations from the University of Chicago, and a doctorate in government and international studies from the University of Notre Dame.

***Jon Wolseth***

*Iowa State University Extension and Outreach*

Jon Wolseth is a cultural anthropologist and community development specialist who works for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Prior research projects include studying community factors in preventing youth and gang violence in Honduras and the street culture of homeless and working children and youth in the Dominican Republic. His work with ISU Extension focuses on strengthening Latino and immigrant small businesses as well as community integration and development in Western Iowa.