



Cambio de Colores (Change of Colors) 2005
Latinos in Missouri: Connecting Research to Policy and Practice -
Hoy y Mañana
March 30, 31 & April 1st, 2005, Reynolds Alumni Center
University of Missouri - Columbia

A conference on Latino
immigration to Missouri

Information about the *Cambio de Colores* conference

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“*Cambio de Colores* (Change of Colors) in Missouri” is an annual conference that focuses on issues related to the current Latino immigration to the state in particular and the Midwest in general. With the goal of contributing to a smooth integration of the new population, the main objectives of the conference are:

- To assess the changes brought about by the presence of new Latino urban and rural settlers in every region of the state.
- To inform about the multiple contributions—economic, social, and cultural—that these new Missourians are bringing to many a community and to the state as a whole.
- To understand the opportunities that this demographic change brings to the state, its people, communities, businesses, and educational institutions.
- To provide a forum to discuss the change and growth challenges posed to institutions and people—both new and old Missourians.
- To share relevant scholarship and best practices, and identify knowledge and service gaps that need addressing.

Organized by the University of Missouri – Columbia (MU), the MU Cambio Center, Alianzas, the Hispanic and Latin American Faculty & Staff Association (HLAFSA) of MU, and University of Missouri Extension, and cooperating government and private institutions.

Managed by the MU
Conference Office.

The annual three-day conference convenes academic research and extension specialists, public and private service providers, grassroots organizations, state and local government institutions, politicians, corporations, and newcomers themselves. The conference is sponsored by the University of Missouri, in cooperation with community and state partners. It is mostly funded by participants (numbering around 300) and sponsors.

The Hispanic and Latin American Faculty & Staff Association of the University of Missouri-Columbia (HLAFSA), established in late 1999, took a principal role in creating and leading these conferences, with the enthusiastic support of the University of Missouri System institutions, and the collaboration of many organizations in our state.

A groundbreaking, three-day event took place in March 2002 at the University of Missouri-Columbia: “*Cambio de colores (Change of Colors). Latinos in Missouri: A call to action!*” A synthesis of the experiences, facts and knowledge derived from this conference is the monograph *Cambio de Colores. Immigration of Latinos to Missouri*, which remains a state-of-the-art publication.

The 2003 conference, “*Cambio de colores (Change of Colors). Latinos in Missouri: Neighbors in Urban and Rural Communities*,” convened at the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



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(over, please)



In 2004, the conference “*Cambio de colores (change of colors). Latinos in Missouri: Gateway to a New Community*” was hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The diverse and enthusiastic participation in these events is demonstrating the relevance and the urgency of addressing today the challenges and the opportunities that arise in Missouri and other Midwestern states, as Latinos and other newcomers settle as workers, families and members of communities.

The fourth conference, “*Cambio de colores (change of colors). Latinos in Missouri: Connecting Research to Policy and Practice - Hoy y Mañana,*” will take place at the University of Missouri-Columbia, in March 30 – April 1st, 2005. Preparations are now under way, with the broad support of a Planning Committee from people across the state. The conference is organized around themes that include change, communities, youth, education, health, and civil rights.

Also, to institutionalize this effort and to foster further permanent work on these issues, the University of Missouri-Columbia has established in the fall of 2004 the **Cambio Center for Research and Outreach on Latinos and Changing Communities in Missouri.**

(Please find more details at the conference Web site: www.cambiodecolores.org.)

Who was at the 2004 *Cambio de Colores* Conference?

- **Total number of registered individual participants: 285**
- **Total number of institutions represented: 145**

Participants main field of activity:

Health	42
Community services	109
Education	86
Policy	31
Not declared	17
Total	285

Participants by type of institution:

Education	54
Health care	7
Higher Education/Extension	105
Federal Government	12
Corporate	15
Local Government	10
State Government	15
NGOs	70
Other / not declared	58
Total	227

Some fast facts about Latinos

In the U.S.:

- Hispanics are the largest and fastest-growing minority ethnic group in the United States
- Latinos in the U.S. are 39.9 million (July 1, 2003), accounting for half of the 9.4 million added to the nation’s population since the 2000 Census. Growth rate is 13.0 percent over that 39-month period; almost four times that of the total population (3.3 percent). (Census Bureau.)
- Hispanic population of the United States will increase by almost 25 million people by 2020, and second-generation Hispanics will account for 47 percent of that growth. (Pew Hispanic Center)
- For the first time, second- and third-generation Hispanics account for most of the growth in the Hispanic population, replacing new immigrants, who fueled the growth in the past. (Pew Hispanic Center)

In Missouri:

- The Latino population almost doubled in Missouri (92%) in the period 1990-2000. Estimated Missouri Hispanic population for the year 2003 is 130,928, up from 118,592 in the 2000 census. (Census Bureau)
- Latino population has increased in 110 of the 115 counties of the state of Missouri. Latinos come to Missouri to work. Overwhelmingly, newcomers have steady jobs and pay taxes, and an increasing number buy cars and homes: they are the new Missourians.
- Kansas City ranks eleventh nationally among the fastest growing Latino populations residing in urban centers.
- Meatpacking rural counties—Sullivan, McDonald, Pettis, Lawrence, Saline, and Jasper—experienced from a 4 to 20-fold increase in Latino population.
- Small cities, such as Joplin, Branson, Springfield, Columbia, Jefferson City, and Warrensburg have doubled or tripled their representation of Latinos.