



**Twelfth Annual Conference**  
**Latinos in the Heartland**  
*Positive Steps toward a Pluralist Society*  
**St. Louis, Missouri**  
**June 12-14, 2013**

**CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**  
**(Short Bios – DRAFT)**

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## Plenary Speakers

### **Guillermo Cantor**, *Immigration Policy Center, Washington D.C.*

Guillermo Cantor is the Senior Policy Analyst at the American Immigration Council's Immigration Policy Center (IPC), Washington, D.C., where he leads the Center's research efforts. He is responsible for identifying key areas of investigation, and developing a broad range of reports and publications that provide timely and relevant analysis of current and emerging policy debates. As a researcher, Dr. Cantor has specialized in immigration and immigrant incorporation, social and political organization of minorities, living conditions of vulnerable groups, and civil society organizations.

### **Guadalupe Martínez**, *Marshall, Missouri*

Guadalupe Martínez has worked as a Parent Educator, interpreter and translator in the Marshall, Missouri, Public Schools and Marshall Hospital systems. Her special field of interest is in prevention of learning delay, health, and early identification of special conditions affecting children's development. Through the Parents as Teachers program, Guadalupe provides education in Spanish to help parents to be successful in their children's development and to connect them with information on medical services, schools, English as Second Language programs for adults, transportation and social services, which help families adapt in their new communities.

### **Bertha Mendoza**, *Kansas State University*

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.

### **Miguel Carranza**, *University of Missouri- Kansas City*

Miguel Carranza serves as director of the interdisciplinary Latina/Latino Studies program and as professor of Sociology and Latina(o) Studies in the Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. His research has centered on the fields of Chicano, Latino and Mexican-American Studies and Ethnic Studies, with a focus on Latino children, mentoring, Midwestern Latina/Latino and Chicana/Chicano communities, immigration, and language attitudes.

### **Ryan Barker**, *Missouri Foundation for Health*

Ryan Barker, MSW, MPPA, is the Vice President of Health Policy at the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH). He joined the Foundation in 2002 and assisted in the establishment and growth of the Health Policy area at MFH. He is also currently the Program Director for the Foundation's Expanding Coverage initiative. He is currently an adjunct professor at Washington University's Brown School of Social Work in the Institute of Public Health and at St. Louis University's Aquinas Institute for Theology.

**Katherine J. Mathews, *Saint Louis University***

Katherine J. Mathews, MD, MPH, MBA, is an obstetrician gynecologist with a background in public health, international work, academic medicine, and healthcare administration. She has dedicated her career to enhancing delivery of high quality, evidence-based, cost effective healthcare with a particular focus on low income and minority populations. For the past two and a half years, Katherine has served as Director of Clinical Services at Casa de Salud. This month she is transitioning to Saint Louis University's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health to start a new research division in partnership with SSM St. Mary's Health Center. She will continue to keep a hand in at Casa, leading two policy research initiatives funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health.

**Tim Borich, *Iowa State University***

Tim Borich has many roles at Iowa State University including Associate Professor, Community and Regional Planning; Associate Dean for Outreach, Design Administration; and Program Director, Extension Community and Economic Development Extension. His research interests include community economic development, leadership development, rural sociology and development, multi-community collaboration, public policy development, distance education, Latino community and economic development, and citizen participation and planning.

**Cornelia Butler Flora, *Iowa State University***

Cornelia Flora is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Iowa State University, and Research Professor at Kansas State University. She served for fifteen years as Director of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. Dr. Flora is a fellow of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science. She is author and editor of a number of recent books, including *Interactions between Agroecosystems* and *Sustainable Agriculture in Temperate Zones*. Her newest book is *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change*, 4th edition. Her current research includes immigrant community inclusion.

**Kimberly Allen, *North Carolina State University***

Kimberly Allen, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor and Extension specialist at North Carolina State University where she teaches in the Family Life and Youth Development Program and holds leadership on several Cooperative Extension programs. Dr. Allen has over 14 years experience working with youth and their families and has lead numerous research projects that focused on curriculum and program development for underserved youth audiences. Most recently, Dr. Allen published *Creating Safe and Inclusive Youth Environments: A Guide to Bullying Prevention Programs*, a report for the National 4-H Council and the Healthy Relationship Marriage Education Training Program.

**Stephanie Potochnick, *University of Missouri***

Stephanie Potochnick, Ph. D., is an Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Public Health at the University of Missouri. She joined the Truman School of Public Affairs after earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 2012.

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. Through her own work and collaborations, she has examined a multitude of factors influencing the academic adaptation and overall health of immigrant youth including: how experiences with discrimination detract from mental health; how daily acculturation experiences affect moods; how educational support systems of new and traditional settlement communities affect academic motivations and achievement; and how the racial composition of schools affects achievement.

**William R. Emmons, *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis***

Bill Emmons is an Assistant Vice President and Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He conducts policy analysis and speaks frequently on topics including the economy, housing and mortgage markets, and household financial conditions among other topics. Mr. Emmons has been with the St. Louis Fed since 1995. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Finance in the John M. Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Presenters**

*Authors are listed in alphabetical order.*

**A**

**Kimberly Allen, *North Carolina State University***

Kimberly Allen, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor and Extension specialist at North Carolina State University where she teaches in the Family Life and Youth Development Program and holds leadership on several Cooperative Extension programs. Dr. Allen has over 14 years' experience working with youth and their families and has led numerous research projects that focused on curriculum and program development for underserved youth audiences. Most recently, Dr. Allen published *Creating Safe and Inclusive Youth Environments: A Guide to Bullying Prevention Programs*, a report for the National 4-H Council and the Healthy Relationship Marriage Education Training Program.

**Christina Abreo, *St. Anna's Episcopal Church, New Orleans, Louisiana***

Christina Abreo was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and has lived throughout southeast Louisiana. She and her siblings grew up in Mexico, Guatemala and Peru while her parents were stationed in Latin America as missionaries. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana and her Master of Arts and PhD. in Latin American Studies from Tulane. She is the first in her family to attend college. She is currently the Director of Adult Education at St Anna's Episcopal Church in New Orleans LA.

**B****Sue Bartelette, *Lincoln University Cooperative Extension***

Sue Bartelette is a landscape designer for the Native Plants Program of Lincoln University Cooperative Extension. She has been involved in the program since 2010. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture with an emphasis on Landscape Design from University of Missouri in Columbia. She owns and operates her own design business 'Flower and Garden Design' which specializes in Native Plant designs. She has worked for Missouri River Community Network as an Americorps worker educating the public about clean water. She is involved with sustainable agriculture and lives on 2 organic acres beside the Missouri River.

**Debra Bolton, *Kansas State University***

Debra Bolton has been the extension specialist in Southwest Kansas for nearly seven years, working with Extension Agents from 26 counties in Family and Consumer Sciences. Previously, she worked as the director of a family resource/community learning center, a full-service school with early child, adult education, and alternative high school with medical facilities, along with other social services. Debra has worked in Head Start, and in another life, worked in public radio for 18 years. Debra received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English. Her doctorate is from Kansas State University in Human Ecology. Her research focuses on rural communities with high minority populations. Debra was appointed by two previous Kansas governors to serve as a commissioner of Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. She currently serves on five other boards of directors as well. She is a workshop presenter for leadership programs, teaches grant writing and logic model building to area non-profit agencies. Her love for working with underserved populations includes teaching sex education to developmentally disabled adults.

**C****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.

**Jill Capes, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign***

Jill Capes began working on immigration-related issues in 2005 while working at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México when she advised students researching Mexican states' policies towards migrants. Since then, she has studied policy issues related to remittances and

written recommendations for local governments as part of a project with the Inter-American Dialogue. For her master's thesis in Globalization and Development from the University of Manchester, she analyzed the effects of social networks on remittance flows from the United States to El Salvador. Professionally, Jill has been the Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor for the Global Studies undergraduate program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the past four years. She has been an active member of the Champaign-Urbana Immigration Forum since January 2011.

**Stephen R. Christ, *University of Missouri***

Stephen R. Christ is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he serves as a graduate teaching assistant and is a University of Missouri Gus T. Ridgel fellow. Stephen earned a B.A. in Spanish and Sociology in 2008, master's degree in Sociology and a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies in 2010. A native of Brownsville, Texas, his research interests focus primarily on Mexican American culture, identity, assimilation, and racial/ethnic inequalities. In his research, Stephen studies ethnomethodologically how legality/illegality and native/foreigner is constructed and reified in the everyday lives of Mexican immigrants in the many new destinations in the Midwest. Of particular interest to Stephen's research agenda are the everyday experiences of Mexican immigrants that contribute to Mexican American identity formation. More specifically, in how Mexican Americans experience daily life at home, at work, in public life and on how these experiences impact their sense of personal identity, their relationships with natives, their interactions with their families and community, and the identity work that goes into producing such categories and social worlds.

**Emily Crawford, *University of Missouri***

Emily Crawford, is an assistant professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri. Her research focuses on issues affecting educational equity for undocumented students, international immigration and education policy, and looking at how educational leaders and teachers advocate for vulnerable students' access to education.

**D**

**Alexandra Davis, *University of Missouri***

Alexandra received a BA in Psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2010, and an MS in Lifespan Development from the University of Missouri in 2012. She is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Human Environmental Sciences.

**Jorge Delva, *University of Michigan***

Jorge Delva is Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the School of Social Work, University of Michigan. He conducts research focusing on addressing and reducing health disparities. His research began in Honolulu two decades ago where he worked on SAMHSA-funded projects aimed at improving the health and mental health of urban Asian and Pacific Islander populations. His work has served to advance the substance abuse field's understanding of psychosocial-cultural mechanisms associated with substance using behaviors among Hispanic/Latino, African American, and American Indians of lower socio-economic position in the United States and with disadvantaged populations in Latin America.

**Ricardo Díaz, *CU Immigration Forum***

As principal at Xpenn Consulting, Ricardo Díaz is an independent research consultant in fields that benefit and learn from Latino Communities in the U.S. At the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, he has worked in the Educational Equity Programs in the Graduate School and in the Office of Extension. While at the University of Pennsylvania, he managed projects at the School of Medicine and at Penn's Graduate School of Education. His work at the National Center on Adult Literacy (in collaboration with PBS) and at the International Literacy Institute involved teacher training and program and material development. He taught Latin American Studies in the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies, a graduate program of the Wharton School of Management. In the Urbana-Champaign (IL) area he collaborated in establishing the UC Immigration Forum. While in the greater Philadelphia area, he worked in the Coalición de Inmigrantes Latinoamericanos, the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition and the Day Without an Immigrant Coalition. Mr. Díaz has done graduate work in sociolinguistics and language acquisition at Brigham Young University and the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught ESL and Spanish at all levels and for both non-formal and university sectors since 1988.

**Kimberly Doudna, *Iowa State University***

Kimberly Doudna is a doctoral student in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University. She studies rural families, with specific interests in depression and household food insecurity.

**F****María Guadalupe (Lupita) Fabregas, *Oklahoma State University***

Dr. María (Lupita) G. Fabregas worked in UPAEP University, Mexico for 29 years, the last 10 years as Director of the UPAEP Liaison Office in the United States. In 2013 she accepted a Clinical Assistant Professor position in the College of Human Sciences at Oklahoma State University, as Multicultural and Community Engagement Specialist. Lupita studied her undergraduate degree in Monterrey Tec in Agriculture Engineering and Animal Sciences, her master in Education from UPAEP and Doctoral Degree in Agricultural Education, at Oklahoma State University. Her interest research and professional development areas are, Intercultural Competency, Diversity, Multiculturalism, as well as Community Engagement (Development and Integration of the Minority Communities in the United States). Currently, she is teaching online courses, Working in a Diverse Society and Cultural Competency for Working in Agricultural and Extension Education, to Master and PhD students around the world. Her responsibilities also include collaborate with academic unit internship coordinators and county extension educators, support the OSU strategic goals of expanding educational opportunities through outreach programs and service designed to meet the needs of underserved group and contribute to increased effectiveness of the Extension and Engagement programs in the Hispanic, native American, African American and other ethnic minorities en the state of Oklahoma.

**Jan L. Flora, *Iowa State University***

Jan L. Flora is an Iowa State University (ISU) Professor of Sociology, Extension Community Sociologist, and on the faculty of the Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture and the inter-institutional distance Masters in Community Development. His extension work centers on

involving immigrants, refugees, and their youth in Iowa's rural and urban communities, with a particular focus on their inclusion in community food systems and on strengthening entrepreneurship among Latino business owners. His research analyzes the relationship of community capitals to economic, community, and sustainable development. He consults with the World Bank on Advocacy Coalitions as a tool for rural and urban communities in Latin America to more readily adapt to climate change. He is a grassroots participant in A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS), an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. He is fluent in Spanish. His Portuguese is a bit rusty. His English improves daily. He grew up on a farm in western Kansas.

## **G**

### **Eleazar U. González, *University of Missouri***

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.

### **Judith R. González, *School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute***

Dr. Judith R. González is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Marriage and Family Therapist in Missouri. She is the founder of Hand In Hand Multicultural Center and a professor in Forest Institute in Springfield, MO. Dr. González is an international known speaker and she has more than one hundred publications and grants. Her areas of research and interest include: Emphasis on systems and ecosystems, families and groups in a cultural framework, international and cross cultural psychology, community interventions and partnerships in mental health, health disparities, culturally competent patient-centered care, psychological/behavioral approach to lifestyle change to improve overall health, diversity and conflict (e.g., spirituality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion. In December 2004, Dr. González received the Award of the Humanitarian of the Year from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks for her great work among immigrants in the Southwest Missouri area.

### **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. Since 2004, she has been studying the health and well-being of Latino immigrant families in rural Iowa communities and across rural America. She co-leads *Rural Families Speak about Health*, a multi-state study focused on examining the mental and physical health of rural families with low incomes and young children.



**H****Stacy Harwood, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign***

Stacy Harwood, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Professor Harwood's research, rooted in social justice, focuses on the emerging field of planning for difference and diversity. She links scholarship to planning practice by examining how practitioners deal with the mandates of participation and equity in land-use planning and how planning codes and regulations differentially affect diverse populations. This interest is founded on years of participant-observation of planning in U.S. and Latin American cities, where she has paid particular attention to the phenomenon of multicultural communities in which planning processes that endorse the ideals of justice and tolerance nevertheless often fall short. Research on planning in multicultural communities queries whether planning criteria and processes are compatible with the needs and desires of the residents and workforce in a diverse community. Such tensions are struggles over space and belonging in society. Professor Harwood's research demonstrates that (1) the local government sponsored neighborhood improvement programs are problematic for neighborhood activists; they bring about positive physical change, but vitiate the effort for more fundamental, social change; (2) land use ordinances and other municipal codes serve as a city's border checkpoints by regulating socio-cultural differences; and (3) the strategy of using "scenarios" can strengthen community planning by building both trust and planning capacity in multicultural settings, laying important groundwork to creating planning process that embrace rather than reject difference. Professor Harwood courses incorporate opportunities for student learning through engagement with resource-poor communities and organizations in East St. Louis, Springfield and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. She teaches Local Policy and Immigration, Planning History and Theory, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Cities & Immigrants.

**Sarah Hendricks, *University of Tennessee***

Sarah Hendricks focuses on understanding barriers to adaptation faced by Latino immigrants, with a particular emphasis on consequences of transportation limitations in new Latino destinations. Experiences with bridging the Spanish-English language gap while working as a community organizer in Chicago, and also while serving as an Americorps Volunteer in Southwest Virginia for a community development and service learning nonprofit organization, sparked an interest in further understanding the complexities of immigrant incorporation. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology in May 2013 from the University of Tennessee, during which time she focused on transportation barriers and adaptation of Latino immigrants in Atlanta, Georgia. During her years as a graduate student, she also served as Graduate Research Associate and Webmaster for the Society for the Society of Social Problems. She now looks forward to teaching at Drake University in the fall as she continues to pursue her research.

**Himar Hernández, *Iowa State University Extension***

Mr. Hernández is a program specialist with Iowa State University Extension Economic and Community Development. He has worked with minority populations for the last twelve years with programs regarding leadership development, entrepreneurship and diversity trainings to communities.

**Pilar Horner, *Michigan State University***

Pilar Horner is an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. She has a joint appointment in the School of Social Work and the Julian Samora Research Institute. Her research looks at reducing health disparities, especially among Spanish-Speaking high-risk populations both in the United States and in Latin America. She is a qualitative researcher that aims to understand the mechanisms and meanings of socio-behavioral aspects of substance use, HIV/AIDS, health and mental health in order to improve interventions and population well-being.

**J****Stephen C. Jeanetta, *Cambio Center, University of Missouri***

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.

**L****Tania Lee, *Iowa State University***

Tania Lee is an undergraduate student in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at Iowa State University. Her research interests focuses on exploring issues in low-income families in maintaining their children overall well-being.

**M****Ramiro Martínez, *Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights***

Ramiro Martínez is a co-founder of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights acting as the organization's primary urgent phone responder for the past five years, fielding over 300 Spanish-language calls from families facing the effects of increased immigration enforcement in the local area. Ramiro is from Mexico and has resided in the US for the past 14 years. He has organized the Latino immigrant community toward increased participation and leadership in WICIR.

**Rubén Martínez, *Michigan State University***

Rubén Martínez 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.

**Sarah F. May, *University of Missouri***

Sarah May is a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology and a Cambio Center student fellow at the University of Missouri where she recently completed her M.A. in Counseling Psychology. Sarah is broadly interested in cross-cultural and multicultural research focused on better understanding the mental health outcomes of immigration to the U.S. from Central America/Mexico and their implications for difficult dialogues, community integration, and public policy. She continues to work closely with advisor Dr. Lisa Flores and the Cambio Center to investigate these topics.

**Joanna C. Méndez, *Hand in Hand Multicultural Center***

Joanna C. Méndez is the community outreach coordinator of Hand in Hand Multicultural Center in Springfield, MO, where she designs programs that support the immigrant community in the area. Mrs. Méndez holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Religious Studies from Missouri State University. Her research interests focuses on the search and development of ethnicity, self-identity, and religious identity among diasporas and immigrant communities, with a strong emphasis in Latina women and historically marginalized 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 holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Master's Degree in Special Education from Fort Hays State University. 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. Bertha was born in Chihuahua, Mexico; she came to the United States in 1993. She lives in Holcomb, and had worked at Iowa Beef Products for seven years, five years in early childhood as an interpreter/translator, two years as a parent educator in the areas of adult and family literacy and currently works as an Extension Agent in the fields of Nutrition and Adult Education at Kansas State University Research and Extension. Through EFNEP Bertha provides basic nutrition education to low income families from diverse backgrounds. She works with Old Colony Mennonites ("German Mennonites"), Hispanic, Anglo, and Burmese families. Besides being a nutrition educator, Bertha uses extensive agency partnerships (Head Start, Center for Children and Families, Healthy Start, Community Health Coalition, Kansans Optimizing Health, Incredible Years, etc.) to address the needs of the whole family beyond nutrition. This work includes teaching individuals and families how to manage or prevent chronic diseases and to reach optimal health through healthy lifestyle, diet and exercise. Children who attend nutrition classes with parents are in age-appropriate classes while their parents also work on literacy skills to acquire their high school diplomas. Bertha guides these parents into higher education as well.

**Wayne Miller, *University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service***

Wayne Miller is a professor with a joint extension and research appointment in the Community and Economic Development program of the University of Arkansas. He has worked in community and rural development for more than 30 years, designing and managing projects, consulting, and conducting research.

He has designed and conducted programs to help rural communities shape effective rural development strategies. He conducts workshops to help community leaders identify goals, recognize opportunities, and implement economic development strategies based on sound analysis. Dr. Miller is also providing leadership for an entrepreneurship program which assists Latino entrepreneurs start new or expand existing businesses.

**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.

**Benjamin C. Mueller, *Avicenna Community Health Center***

Benjamin C. Mueller, MS, is the Director for Outreach, Partnerships and Volunteer Management for Avicenna Community Health Center, a free, interfaith health clinic founded in 2010 by Muslim American physicians in Champaign, Illinois. Mr. Mueller has extensive experience in rural health outreach and assisting charitable and federally qualified health clinics. Ben has also focused his work in the area of community and organizational development research and outreach with a special expertise with Hispanic populations in the Midwest and in international settings. Mueller retired from the University of Illinois in 2011 after 18 years where he served as a Community Development Specialist for University of Illinois Extension and Assistant Director for Community Outreach for the National Center for Rural Health Professions at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. From 1993-2010 Mr. Mueller created and served as executive director for Nuevos Horizontes (New Horizons), a nationally recognized educational outreach program in Spanish for Hispanic immigrant and Latino audiences utilizing radio, the web and multimedia tools. He is the former Director of the Northern Illinois Area Health Education Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that provided health education and community action projects for rural, underserved populations in fourteen Illinois counties. Most recently Mueller has worked with the University of Illinois and USAID to produce a rural sector study to assess and develop an action plan for the Extension Service of the

National Federation of Coffee Growers in Colombia, a private/public partnership organization with 540,000 small producers in 17 states of Colombia.

## N

### **Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, *Lincoln University Cooperative Extension***

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall is Associate Professor and Native Plant Extension Specialist at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension since 2008. She is the Coordinator of the Native Plants Program and the Sprouts and Roots Program. She is developing in Missouri the 'FINCA model: Families Integrating Nature, Conservation and Agriculture project' with collaborators in Missouri and her native El Salvador.

In 2008 she received Missouri's highest conservation honor as she was inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame as a Master Conservationist. This honor is reserved for people who make a substantial and lasting contribution to conservation. Education: Ph.D. in Plant Biology, M.S. in Forestry and B.S. Agronomy

## O

### **Kate Olson, *University of Missouri***

Kate Olson is a first year doctoral student in Public Affairs at the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Columbia-Missouri. Her research interests include 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

### **Oscar Rojas Pérez, *University of California, Irvine***

Oscar Rojas Pérez graduated from the University of California, Irvine with majors in Chicana/o Studies and Sociology. He served under the mentorship of Dr. Jeanett Castellanos and Dr. Belinda Campos, where he worked on various projects that examined coping strategies, psychological well-being of Latina/os as well as the concept of Familism influences individuals' closeness in romantic relationships. He will pursue a Ph.D. degree in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri this Fall. Oscar will work under the supervision of Dr. Puncy Heppner in the Educational, School and Counseling Psychology Department. His research interests including studying the immigration experiences of Latina/os and the ways it affects mental and physical health. In addition, he is interested in exploring the unique coping strategies that emerge after the immigration process and how this contributes to the well-being of Latina/o immigrants.

### **Stephanie Potochnick, *University of Missouri***

Dr. Stephanie Potochnick is an Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Public Health. She joined the Truman School of Public Affairs after earning a PhD in Public Policy at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 2012. 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. Through her own work and collaborations, she has examined a multitude of factors influencing the academic adaptation and overall health of immigrant youth including: how experiences with discrimination detract from mental health; how daily acculturation experiences affect moods; how educational support systems of new and traditional settlement communities affect academic motivations and achievement; and how the racial composition of schools affects achievement. Current projects examine how state-level immigration policies affect the school investment decisions of immigrant youth at different times in their educational pathway and how settlement in new immigrant growth areas affects the psychological adaptation and overall health of immigrant youth.

## **Q**

### **Danielle Quintero, *University of Missouri***

Danielle Quintero recently received her Masters of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri. She will continue her graduate studies by pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri this Fall. Danielle works under the supervision of Dr. Bryana H. French in the Educational, School and Counseling Psychology Department. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with majors in Psychology and Sociology, with a minor in Education and Applied Psychology. Her current research interests include sexual violence prevention and intervention methods, coping strategies within minority populations, and empowerment and social justice. . In particular, she is interested in understanding the recovery process and resiliency for Latina sexual violence survivors and ways they intersect within the context of immigration. Her future scholarly plans are to conduct research that focuses on Latina immigrants who have experienced rape and sexual violence at the US/Mexico border.

## **R**

### **Angelica S. Reina, *Iowa State University***

Angelica S. Reina, MS. is a doctorate candidate in the Department of Human Development and Families Studies with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies at the Iowa State University. Her research interests have been focused on institutional responses to domestic violence, resilience processes and factors predictive of successful life of Latina immigrants, and physical and mental health of rural Latino families with low incomes.

### **Nancy Ríos, *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services***

Nancy Ríos works for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Kansas City Regional Office. She began her career in 1999 in the Division of Survey, Certification & Enforcement. Her career at CMS also includes a two year assignment in the Division of Medicaid & Children's Health and five years of experience in the Division of Medicare Health Plans Operations. Nancy is currently the Lead for the Regional External Affairs Team responsible for the implementation of national CMS campaigns and initiatives at the regional level. She is also the Native American Contact for the region. In this capacity, she coordinates and provides technical assistance, policy guidance, and training to Indian Health, Tribal, Urban Indian Programs, and State Medicaid Agencies.

**S****Laura Sanders, *Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights***

Laura Sanders, LMSW, ACSW, has been an instructor in the University of Michigan's graduate School of Social Work for 17 years, and has practiced for over 24 years as a family therapist in the area of trauma. She is a long-time community activist for human rights including those of children, women, TGLB people and immigrants. Her work with people is eclectic and creative including clinical intervention, advocacy and community organizing. Most recently, she is a co-founder of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, an active grassroots, all-volunteer organization that responds to local ICE raids, detentions and deportations of our immigrant community members, and advocates for immigration reform.

**Toby Spanier, *University of Minnesota Extension***

Toby Spanier is an Associate Extension Professor and Educator at the Center for Community Vitality with the University of Minnesota Extension in Marshall, MN. He has spent the last 20 years working to make improvements in communities through educational experiences. Toby began his educational career in the non-profit sector and the U.S. Peace Corps. Toby has worked internationally as an educational development specialist in Central and South America. Toby also worked in the Maryland and Minnesota public school systems, before beginning work with the University of Minnesota Extension. Within Extension, Toby has worked in the Community Youth Development Area and Leadership and Civic Engagement Area of Expertise using his skills and knowledge to build leadership capacity, communication, facilitation and a common vision for organizations, agencies and community groups. Toby brings extensive experience in program design, curriculum development, teacher professional development and evaluation. Toby is a trained administrator in several assessment instruments, e.g. Intercultural Development Inventory and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Toby holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Towson State University in Maryland.

**Ioana Staiculescu, *Center for Health Policy, University of Missouri***

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

**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

### **John M. “Jack” Wilkie, Attorney at Law, Champaign, Illinois**

John M. “Jack” Wilkie is a sole-practitioner attorney, with offices in Champaign, Illinois. He has been licensed since 1986 and has, since that time, been representing Spanish-speaking clients, in courts throughout the State of Illinois in criminal and traffic court defense, and worker’s compensation. Since 2001, he has expanded his practice to include immigration law. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Northern Illinois University College of Law. He is married and has 2 children who have just graduated from high school and college, respectively. His day job is lawyer, but his fun night job is playing guitar with the world renowned band, “New Riders of the Golden Maize.”