

Education—what have we accomplished in the last year?

Projects Last Year

1. Online course for professionals to help them learn Spanish
2. Civic Awareness Event for elected officials to provide conference information on Cambio de Colores
3. Hispanic Day in Jefferson City direct result of Cambio de Colores
4. ESOL (English for Speakers of other languages) certification courses were offered online and ITV through Southeast MO State University. They are also offering a Masters Degree (MATESOL) online.
5. Southeast Missouri State University is also working with DESE in five sites (Milan, McDonald County, Sedalia, St. Joseph, and in the Bootheel) to provide tuition assistance for K-12 teachers to obtain ESOL certification.
6. ESL workshop for the Ozark Teachers Alliance.
7. Monett—support group for girls 12 – 23, voluntary community outreach to schools.
8. GRA—4 educational festivals that brought people together to share culture (Carthage, Noel, Springfield, and Monett).
9. DESE has a project director for ELL programs project is regionally organized.
10. Schools are doing a monthly parents meeting. They did a survey to find out how often to meet and to direct the content of the meetings. Issues include rights and drivers test.
11. Writing contest, the winners are to be presented at the conference. The writing is in Spanish or English.
12. SEA—In Kansas City, Sedalia, and Springfield, Mexicans will be completing an basic education program.
13. Newton County HEP (High School Equivalency Program) and CAMP for migrant workers provides 1st year of school for free.
14. Pilot teacher program at SMSU which has 2 to 3 teachers visiting from Mexico.
15. Title 6a—Instructors take issue of Latin American incorporation in CURR.

16. State Department Forum (African American Teachers) John Miller Latinos Forum was linked to this program.

Needed Changes in Policy

1. Need access to post-secondary training for non documented students to include:
 - a. Grants/Entry/A+ is not available to ESL students
 - b. Lack of access to post-secondary education contributes to high school drop-out rate.
 - c. Without education will remain underemployed
 - d. Documentation is a long process—those in the process should be able to start school.
2. SEA—the U.S. should recognize a GED equivalent program because degrees/certifications are not recognized in the U.S.
3. Pre-school improvement programs.
4. Out of State Tuition Special School District never want testing—special education issues take many years. A system is need in Missouri.
5. Need Latinos involved in all area areas of schools (clubs, organizations).
 - a. More involvement is needed generally
 - b. Stress the importance of networking and getting involved
6. Cultural Practices are important—need education about rights and responsibilities in areas like DFS.
7. Need Spanish speaking versions of working organizations like Parents as Teachers.
8. The whole state needs to be up-to-speed on their rights and responsibilities and to establish some basic standards. Latinos working together—Unity—unity for representation.

Education—where do we go from here?

Key Issues and Program Ideas

1. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) with learning disabilities.
2. Group look at models for teaching children
 - a. Funding issues including availability and access.

3. Keeping Kids in School
 - a. Issues of truancy (if you miss 10 days you are automatically out of school). This is a community problem that needs a community solution.
 - b. Parents need to be aware of the consequences of their children missing school.
 - c. School Code Books—rules need to be in English and Spanish.
 - d. Is there a role for family values education?
 - e. Develop general infomercials in parents' language.
4. Teacher Certification
 - a. Diversity training for Teachers at college level. Currently, only CMSU and Lincoln offer this kind of training.
 - b. Link with DESE training for teachers.
5. Adult ESOL in DESE
 - a. DESE funded ESOL programs are very poor.
 - b. There are no universal standards.
 - c. Should not be used as a professional standard to certify professionals (vets, MDs, etc...).
 - d. Have a special session on certification at next year's conference.
6. Community Based Literacy programs (www.proliteracyworldwide.org)
 - a. Include non-formal/nontraditional programs with varied schedules.
 - b. Literacy councils.
 - c. Church
 - d. Outreach Adult Education.
 - e. Reach Mom's and Grandmas.
7. Active Outreach to all Latino communities in all parts of the State.
 - a. Attend Cambio de Colores
8. Require all staff in schools to have diversity training.
9. Establish realistic long-term and short-term goals
 - a. Figure out how to centralize some efforts and find focus.
10. Permit staff in schools to attend community training and resources.
 - a. Requires change in school policy and attitude at all levels.
 - b. Need a watchdog at DESE to make sure (a) happens.
11. Bring parents to the table/conference
 - a. Hold special programs and workshops at programs like Cambio de Colores for parents, in their language.

Resources Needed

1. All standardized DESE forms need to be translated and available in one location for schools and others.
2. Have a four track committee on education at the next conference.
 - a. Development of community leadership
 - b. American systems
 - c. Work together to build communities.
3. Court systems have a program for certifying Interpreters and we need the same thing for education (Interpreters are already available in some systems but we need them in all).
 - a. Take care to make sure people are at a 4th grade reading level or better.
 - b. Use typical language not education-eze.
4. Need some basic information available on tapes and CDs.
 - a. Health information.
 - b. School information.
 - c. Developed in a fashion that ensures understanding.
5. Think outside the box—offering training for all.
6. Corporate people should be at Cambio de Colores conference.

What role are you willing to play?

1. Ozark Regional Alliance
 - a. 90+ organizations plus individuals addressing issues such as health, education, leadership, domestic violence, etc...
 - b. The alliance will educate all newcomers.
2. St. Louis
 - a. Return to community and develop a leadership program.
3. Need a participants directory available on the website:
www.alianzas.us