Folk Groups and Cultures: A Brief Overview

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Mission Control...you're not gonna believe this!

El Chuy de Mars y que
“During the next decade, [1] out of every [4] new workers in the United States will be an immigrant from Latin America. While some of these newcomers speak English well and enter the U.S. with strong academic credentials and skills, most do not.”

“Over 50% of Hispanic immigrants have less than a high school education, and like other low-skilled working adults, they face a host of barriers if they want to earn the credentials they need to compete in today’s labor market.”

---Building Tomorrow’s Workforce: Promoting the Education & Advancement of Hispanic Immigrant Workers in America (2007).
“The Latino community is growing so rapidly that American progress in [this] century is inextricably linked to the progress of the Latino community. Any investment in the services that lift Latinos into the middle-class is an investment in the future of the entire country.”

---Henry Cisneros,
10th Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development,
Pres. Bill Clinton Administration (1993-97)
Workshop Objectives

• To understand some of the social differences (rural, urban, ethnic) within Hispanic groups

• To learn about some of the issues that affect particular Hispanic groups in their integration into U.S. culture.

• To build university-community partnerships that address Hispanic concerns for a better and all-inclusive society.
Rural and semirural folk groups
Urban folk groups
Hispanic groups not of Mexican descent

--Central American (Salvadoran, Guatemalan, etc.)
--Brazilian
--Cuban
--Peruvian
--Puerto Rican
--Argentinean,
--Chilean
--Venezuelan
General concerns among the Latino community that impact integration

- Social status
- Having a good, paying job
- Learning English
- Engaging children in school
- Buying homes
- Having access to health care
- Participating in civic, community, & religious activities
“Communiversity” Partnerships

- **Goal**: To improve the life of the community
- **Activities**: A dedication to public service
South Bay Region (Los Angeles, CA)
Foreign Born Population
Naturalized/Non-Naturalized
Legal Permanent Residents (LPR) in California

• According to the Office of Immigration Statistics, in October 2009, the estimated LPR population was 12.6 million and an estimated 8.1 million LPRs were eligible for naturalization.

• California has the largest LPR population (3.4 million) with an estimated 2.4 million (30.1%) eligible for U.S. naturalization (Rytina 2009).

• Of these 2.3 million eligible LPR, almost 1.5 million are of Latin American ancestry (Angulo 2006).
American Dream Center
at
California State University, Dominguez Hills
#1: Free U.S. Application Assistance (N-400 forms only)
#2: Free U.S. Citizenship Classes

38. What is the highest court in the United States?

- the Supreme Court
#3: Self-Sufficiency Workshops

- Employment Services
- Financial and Computer Literacy
- Home Buying Opportunities
#4: Civic Engagement for Students
Milestones: Building better communities one person at a time

- Help family members become permanent residents or U.S. citizens
- Eligible to vote
- Obtain U.S. Passport
- Learn English
- Obtain federal or state employment
- Establish better relationship with community members
- Participate in civic and community activities
- Aspire to attend college
Bibliography

Angulo, Javier C. “We are America” Coalition, July 1, 2006. Los Angeles Convention Center. Personal Communication.


Paredes, Americo. “*El folklore de los grupos de origen mexicano en Estados Unidos.*” *Folklore Americano* 14: 146-63.

Electronic Resources

- California State University, Dominguez Hills. [http://www.csudh.edu/site/AboutTheUniversity/missionstatement.asp](http://www.csudh.edu/site/AboutTheUniversity/missionstatement.asp)


- United States Census Bureau. [http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html)