



Fourteenth Annual Conference

*Latinos in the Heartland:
Shaping the Future:
Leadership for Inclusive Communities*

PRESENTER BIOS

*This draft document is intended for the convenience and exclusive use of
conference participants.*

Bios are listed by the author's last name.

A

Joanna Acosta

Michigan State University

Originally from the city of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, Joanna Acosta is a sophomore at MSU majoring in animal science with a concentration in pre-veterinary medicine and a minor in environmental studies. Her goal is to someday become a veterinarian and an educator. She serves as a research assistant for JSRI's multiple projects.

Julia Albarracin

Western Illinois University

Julia Albarracin has recently been named The Dan and Laura Webb Professor of Political Science at Western Illinois University. Her research interests include immigration and Latinos in the United States. She has been published several articles and book chapters, and her book *At the Core and in the Margins: The Incorporation of Immigrants in Rural Illinois* will be published by Michigan State University Press in 2016.

Maria B Alcivar-Zuñiga

Iowa State University

Maria B Alcivar-Zuñiga is a graduate student at Iowa State University in the Master of Family and Consumer Sciences program. Originally from Ecuador, she arrived to the United States at the age of 11. She is a first generation immigrant and settled, along with her mother and brother, in West New York, New Jersey. Maria is the second in her family to go to college, following her older brother's footsteps. In 2011, she acquired her undergraduate degree with a double major in International Studies and Women Studies. Currently, Maria works part-time as the Domestic Violence/ Diversity Outreach Advocate for a non-profit advocacy center based out of Ames, Iowa. In addition, she works under Dr. Melby as a Research Assistant for the Child Welfare Research and Training Project. Her research interests include Latina/o victims of violence, undocumented children, cultural competency and social services in rural areas. Maria is also very involved with the Latino community in Iowa. She has volunteered for various Latino-based programs such as JUNTOS: Together for a Better Education, Immigrant Allies of Marshalltown, and the League of Latino American United Citizens

Mariaeugenia Alcocer

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

Mariaeugenia Alcocer is the Bilingual Advocacy and Outreach Specialist at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA). She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice, an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Central Missouri, and an MPA from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. With 10 years of experience working with survivors of abuse, Mariaeugenia's experience includes working with child protective services, children's psychiatric care, and working with victims of domestic and sexual violence in both rural and urban communities. As the bilingual advocate, she provides bilingual and bicultural services as well as outreach to the Latino community.

Anna Armstrong

Kansas State University

Jorge H. Atilas

Oklahoma State University

Dr. Jorge H. Atilas is associate dean and professor for extension and engagement in the College of Human Sciences at Oklahoma State University. Atilas has served as associate dean and Extension program leader at the University of Georgia. He received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the Dominican Republic, his master's degree in urban and regional planning, and his Ph.D. in housing, from Virginia Tech. Dr. Atilas has worked in the private and public sectors managing housing finance and

development projects. His scholarship has focused on affordable housing, indoor air quality, energy conservation, home safety and water quality protection.

B

Carlos de la Barrera

Bethany Christian Services, Michigan

For the past three decades, Carlos de la Barrera, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been an elementary and higher education pedagogue focused on helping disadvantaged migrant children and adults. Before joining Bethany Christian Services, in 2012, Carlos served as a coordinator for the “Plaza Comunitaria of Grand Rapids” in Michigan, a non-profit organization sponsored by the Mexican Department of Education (INEA) that offers continuing education to migrant adults living in the US. Since 2012, Carlos has been directly involved in the creation and implementation of the educational programming at Bethany Christian Services Unaccompanied Migrant Program. As lead teacher and supervisor of the Transitional Foster Care educational program at Bethany Christian School, Carlos envisioned and created all the educational programming for children ages 2-17. With a trauma oriented focus, he implemented assessments and curricula adapted to comply with the Federal government regulations and at the same time to the emotional, psychological, and academic needs of this unique population. Since 2012, the educational program has expanded its capacity to accommodate fifty children and has expanded these services into several other Bethany Christian Services branches in the West Michigan area. Carlos is also a classically trained musician and was awarded a Full-Graduate Scholarship towards his master’s degree in Music from the University of Cincinnati. He is also working on a second master’s degree in Music Therapy from Ohio University. Carlos has worked at several universities as an adjunct professor of music, Spanish, and Latin-American studies during the last 15 years and continues to hold a high appreciation for the therapeutic benefits of music. He resides in Grand Rapids with his wife of twenty five years and his daughter Carolina.

Cynthia Bell-Jimenez

Turtle Creek Elementary School

Cynthia Bell-Jimenez has a M.S. and M.S.Ed. from La Universidad Latinoamericana in San José Costa Rica. In Costa Rica she acted as a curriculum developer and principal of an early education center and preschool. Previously, she was a teacher at the dual language kindergarten in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Currently, she is a kindergarten teacher with the Turtle Creek Elementary School Dual Language Program in the Delavan-Darien School District of Wisconsin.

Cecilia Belser-Patton

Guadalupe Educational System

Cecilia Belser-Patton, MA, leads the development and implementation of Guadalupe Educational System's Restorative Justice Program, serves on the district Cultural Competency Leadership Team, and is proud to be a part of the continuing legacy of Guadalupe Centers, Inc. She is currently working toward her Education Specialist degree in Urban Leadership Administration. Her core values and personal compass are strongly oriented in educational equity and social justice as a way of life, and they serve as the foundation in which she views the world around her. Having taught ELA and Social Studies, and being a professional thespian, Mrs. BP believes in the power of self-expression. Cultural pride and awareness, as well as personal narrative serve as her learning and leading blueprint in education. She is the founder of My Sister Girl Myself, which develops self-awareness, self-knowledge, self-efficacy, and self-actualization in young women of color. Cecilia is committed to urban education, our students, families, and their communities and consistently advocates for students' ability to empower and advance themselves through education, social astuteness, and political adeptness.

Paola Bichara

Montgomery College

Paola Bichara is a community engagement specialist at Montgomery College.

Debra Bolton

Kansas State University

For 10 years, Debra Bolton has been the extension specialist in Southwest Kansas working with Extension Agents in 26 counties. Debra's main focus is multi-lingual research in Minority-majority rural communities focusing on health, well-being, integration, social connectedness, and educational needs. Debra is involved in three multi-lingual research projects at the moment. Bolton teaches leadership in under-served audiences, grant writing and logic model building to area non-profit agencies, and teaches writing to women working on high school diplomas. Her emphasis in training is a self-written workshop called, "Know Yourself, Understand Others, and Improve Relationships." Debra studies geography and plays banjo in a bluegrass band in her spare time.

Zachary Bosey

Michigan State University

Charissa Boyd

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

Charissa Boyd teaches immigrant students in the Transitional Foster Care program of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. Charissa earned her Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Andrews University, specializing in the experience of the immigrant student. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Union College. Charissa has worked in the field of English language education since 2000, when she began work as a kindergarten teacher in South Korea. During her time in Korea, Charissa also worked for SDA Books, writing and publishing English language materials for children and adults. In 2012, Charissa developed the educational program for Lutheran Social Services, when the agency expanded its program to support short-term placements for unaccompanied immigrant children. The school now serves 48 children in four classroom locations.

C

Sarah Caldera Wimmer

Kingdom House

Sarah Caldera Wimmer, MSW, is the Coordinator of Apoyo y Carino at Kingdom House. She has eight years of experience working with Latinos in Omaha, Nicaragua, and St. Louis. Her passion for social justice, community development, and building social capital has largely influenced her endeavors with immigrant families. Her extensive work with groups and individuals has focused on recognizing and addressing barriers, creating access, and building positive social capital. Sarah received her BA in Creative Writing, Spanish, and Justice and Peace Studies in 2006 from Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and her MSW from Washington University in St. Louis in 2014

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.

Ruth Cardenas

University of Missouri-Columbia

Ruth Cardenas is a doctoral student in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri.

Gustavo Carlo

University of Missouri-Columbia

Gustavo Carlo is the Millsap Professor of Diversity in Human Development and Family Science at the University of Missouri. He is also the director of the Center for Family Policy and Research at MU. His research interests include prosocial and moral development among children and adolescents; temperament, family correlates, social cognitions and emotions, and culture-related variables associated with such development; and positive health and adjustment among Latino families and youth.

Miguel Carranza

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Dr. Miguel Carranza currently serves as the founding Director of the Latina/Latino Studies Program and Professor of Latina/Latino Studies and Sociology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). Previously he held the position of Professor of Sociology and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Carranza was Chair of the National Association for Chicano Studies (now the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies) from 1981-1983. From 1990-92 he was President of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) and in 1992 was presented the NAES Charles C. Irby Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to the field of ethnic studies. This past April, he was awarded the 2015 NACCS Scholar award for lifetime contributions to the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. His extensive research has centered on the fields of Chicano, Latino and Mexican-American Studies and Ethnic Studies, with a focus on Latino children, mentoring, Midwestern Chicano/Latino communities, immigration, and language attitudes.

Daniel Cash

University of Missouri Extension

Daniel Cash is a community development specialist in Jackson County, Missouri.

John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas

Iowa State University

John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas is the 4-H Youth Development Program Leader for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Daisy Collins

Missouri State University

Daisy Collins is a faculty member at Missouri State University's department of Reading Foundations and Technology.

Antonia Correa

UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Antonia Correa is a Community Outreach and Tobacco Prevention Specialist at the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Emily Crawford

University of Missouri

Emily R. Crawford is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Dr. Crawford's most recent work has appeared in the *International Journal of Leadership in Education* and will soon appear in the *Journal of School Leadership, Urban Education*, and the *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. Her research agenda includes issues of immigration in public schools and communities, ethical dilemmas, and the impact of immigration policy for undocumented students.

D

Marjorie Datwyler

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Marji Datwyler serves as director of Avanzando, a partnership between the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Division of Diversity and Inclusion and the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Development Fund (HDF). Implemented in 2011, Avanzando provides support to HDF Scholarship recipients with goals of 1) increasing retention, 2) improving graduation rates, and 3) ensuring successful transitions into graduate school and/or career positions. Marji holds a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in counseling from the University of Missouri – Columbia, and has devoted her career to service in human development and health service arenas. Inspired and mentored by colleagues, she is dedicated to supporting underrepresented students in achieving their educational and career goals and to creating a more inclusive campus environment.

Alexandra Davis

University of Missouri-Columbia

Alexandra Davis is a graduate student in Human Development and Family Studies program at the University of Missouri.

Claudia P. Diaz Carrasco

University of California Cooperative Extension

Diaz Carrasco earned her B.S. in Food Industry Engineering from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Querétaro, Mexico, an M.S. in Management and Marketing from Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP), Puebla, Mexico, and a Master of Agriculture in International Agriculture from Oklahoma State University. Prior to joining UCCE, at Oklahoma State University, she gained experience while working on food security and competitiveness projects in both Mexico and the USA, and assisting the Director in her master's program in administrative, research and creative activities. She facilitated communication with Mexican Partner Universities and coordinated outreach and promotional missions to other universities. As a graduate assistant at UPAEP, Mexico, she coordinated research and community outreach projects, mediated communication between stakeholders of the projects, researched grant opportunities, and prepared proposals. As an undergraduate student, she was trained as an Instructor of Programa Aguilas de Mexico, the largest leadership program at her University whose mission is to contribute to individual personal development, in order that each person becomes the best human being through their own actions. After the training, she participated actively during the organization and execution of the freshman orientations. Diaz Carrasco worked as a camp counselor for a year at Pena Grande, a Mexican Private Camp, where she served as positive role model for youth, assumed responsibility of safety up to 150 campers, and calculated, organized, and supervised the camp materials. There, she was awarded "Counselor of the Year."

Lisa Diaz

University of Illinois Extension

Lisa Diaz is the 4-H Assistant Dean and Director at the University of Illinois Extension.

Ricardo Diaz

University of Illinois Extension

Ricardo Diaz is the Visiting Program Coordinator in the State 4-H Office at the University of Illinois Extension.

Anita Dille

Kansas State University

Anita Dille is a Professor of Weed Ecology in the department of Agronomy at Kansas State University.

Lisa M. Dorner

University of Missouri-Columbia

Lisa Dorner, PhD is an assistant professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. She teaches and researches about language policy and planning in education, educational policy implementation, and immigrant family integration in “new” spaces. She has had the honor and pleasure to work with the St. Louis Language Immersion Schools and its educators since its founding, and she believes in building a stronger, multilingual world (in part through sending her children to language immersion schools!).

Elizabeth Duarte Rios

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Elizabeth Duarte Rios just completed her sophomore year at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). She is a first generation, pre-medical student majoring in psychology with interests in pediatrics and oncology. Elizabeth was recently appointed to the Board of the Coalition of Hispanic Women Against Cancer (CHWAC). She’s an Avanzando Scholar and, last fall, was selected to be part of the Avanzando Research Scholar Initiative. Her research project focuses on educating the Latin@ community about the importance of this vaccine in preventing cervical cancer. During the academic year, Elizabeth works for the UMKC Division of Diversity & Inclusion.

E

William Escalante

Michigan State University

Mr. Escalante is a doctoral student in the Sociology Department at Michigan State University. His current work examines Día de Los Muertos celebrations in the Midwest region of the United States, addressing the question of how human beings construct their cultural identity in new geographic locations. Conceptually, Mr. Escalante is interested in culture, migration, race and ethnicity in the United States and México.

F

Maria G. Fabregas Janeiro

Oklahoma State University

Dr. Maria (Lupita) G. Fabregas received her Bachelor Degree in Agriculture and Animal Science from Monterrey Tech, her Master Degree in Education from UPAEP and her PhD in Agricultural Education from Oklahoma State University. She worked in UPAEP University, Mexico for 29 years, as Department Head and Director of Financial Aid and Alumni Relations. In 2002, she moved to the United States and worked as Director of the UPAEP Liaison Office for ten years. 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. She designs and delivers Intercultural Competence trainings to students, professors, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service personnel, and public on how to effectively interact with people from different cultures. She has written more than 15 journal articles. She is a member of the Researcher National System (SNI) in the Mexican National Council of Sciences and Technology (CONACYT). Her interest in research and professional development areas are Intercultural

Competency, Program Development, Diversity, International Research Projects, and Community Engagement.

Anne Farina

Kingdom House

Anne Farina, LCSW, serves as the Director of Family Development Services at Kingdom House. She has over twelve years of experience in program development, evaluation, and administration. She graduated with her MSW in 2003 and obtained her LCSW in 2007. She has extensive training in the areas of trauma and attachment and has received clinical training in Sensorimotor Psychotherapy, Structured Sensory Intervention, play therapy, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. Anne has clinical experience working with refugees and immigrants, children in foster care, children who were adopted, families, and couples. She believes strongly in research based programming and clinical practice and has developed a somatic based intervention called Somatic Soothing. Anne teaches in the School of Social Work at Washington University and University of Missouri-St. Louis and has served as field instructor for MSW and BSSW students.

John Fierro

Mattie Rhodes Center

John is the President/CEO of Mattie Rhodes Center, known for its holistic approach to improving the well-being of individuals, families, and the community in Greater Kansas City. John was the founder of the Latino Civic Engagement Collaborative (LCEC), which is made up of the executive directors from Latino-serving organizations in Kansas City, Missouri, including: Cabot Westside Health Center, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, Hispanic Economic Development Corporation, LULAC National Education Service Center, Mattie Rhodes Center, Samuel Rodgers Health Center, and the Westside Housing Organization. The LCEC is dedicated to supporting the delivery of education, health, mental health, business development, housing, economic development, and social services for the Latino population of Kansas City.

John has a strong public administration and civic engagement background. In 2011, he was appointed by Mayor Sly James to serve on the Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri's Board of Commissioners. He is also currently serving on the Metropolitan Community College Foundation Board of Directors. John's previous experience includes tenure as the President of the Board of Commissioners for the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department from 2006 to 2011, the first Latino to be awarded that position; board of commissioner appointee by Mayor Kay Barnes on the Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri; and a member of the Bi-State Empowerment Zone Committee appointed by Mayor Emanuel Cleaver, II. John has extensive experience in fundraising, strategic planning and consensus building. He holds an executive MBA from Rockhurst University and bachelors and master's degrees from Park University. John and his wife Loretta are lifelong Kansas City natives residing in the Westside neighborhood.

Cynthia Fletcher

Iowa State University

Cynthia (Cindy) Needles Fletcher, Ph.D., Professor & Extension Specialist, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Iowa State University, examines family and consumer economic well-being and related public policy issues. Her work spans from micro-level family/household financial decision making to macro-level effects of public policies on family and community economic outcomes. Her scholarship has been published in such journals as *Family Relations*, *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, *Journal of Poverty*, and the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*. Fletcher received the Nancy Nye Fellowship from the University of New Hampshire's Carsey School of Public Policy. She was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Council on Consumer Interests in 2012.

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.

Kathryn L. Fuger

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Dr. Kathryn L. Fuger, Research Associate of the Institute for Human Development at University of Missouri-Kansas City, conducts program evaluation, applied research, and assessment addressing children and family issues. Under the guidance of the Latino Civic Engagement Collaborative, she directed the Hispanic Needs Assessment project and surveyed Latina/o populations across the 9-county Greater Kansas City area, reporting their perceptions of both their unmet needs and the strengths that they contribute to the community.

Dr. Fuger earned an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education and Public Affairs and Administration from UMKC, and masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She has worked with IHD since 1992, and has been the director of Early Childhood/Youth Programs since 2002. Her primary responsibilities include evaluation, external programs and child assessment, needs and assets assessment, consultation and technical support, curriculum and product development, and university leadership. In 2014, the Missouri Head Start Association recognized her with the State Children's Champion Award. She has likewise been recognized for her work and service for young children by the Association for the Education of Young Children, Missouri and Greater Kansas City chapters.

G

Carlos Gomez

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City

Carlos Gomez is the President/CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. Carlos's focus for the Chamber is to ensure the Chamber is meeting the needs of the small business community (in particular the Spanish-speaking business owner), lobbying for small business legislation, Comprehensive Immigration Reform and to connect corporate America, government and others to the Hispanic Business Community and the Hispanic consumer.

Carlos came to the Chamber after 18 years of management experience at Best Buy. Mr. Gomez graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, with a double degree, a Bachelors of Business Administration in Marketing and in Management.

The Hispanic Chamber has implemented a very successful Small business Contracting Program, "Procurement One on Ones" which now take place quarterly to match small businesses to corporate, government, medical, and educational buyers. Carlos also serves as the Executive Director of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative which is the 501c3 sister organization to the Hispanic Chamber. Four programs comprise the Collaborative: KC Bizfest, the Latinos of Tomorrow, the Young Latino Professionals and The Latino Leadership Institute which was established to teach Hispanics and Women how to serve on boards and commissions. The Chamber has also launched a series of workshops and seminars that are facilitated in Spanish to serve the needs of the growing Spanish speaking business community.

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.

Gretchen Green

Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund

Born and raised in Canada, Gretchen Green researched and taught in the field of Native North American Studies and American Multicultural History, most recently at UMKC, before leaving academia in 2006 to work at the Migrant Farmworkers Project (now Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund) , a social service agency in Lafayette County Missouri serving migrant and seasonal farmworker families. Gretchen works primarily with families in regard to education issues – from early childhood and Kindergarten readiness through college process and adult education. She lives in Kansas City.

Alejandra Gudiño

University of Missouri Extension

Alejandra Gudiño is the Cultural Inclusion & Diversity Coordinator at the Family Nutrition Education Programs in College of Human Environmental Sciences University of Missouri – Extension. She is also a Cambio Center Fellow, a Difficult Dialogues Fellow, the Co-Chair of NCERA Latinos & Immigrants in Midwestern Communities, and the Co-Director of Community Archeology Project Palmitopamba Ecuador.

H

Captain Francisco M. Hernandez

Creative Associates International

Capt. Francisco M. Hernandez serves as the U.S. Army Fellow within the Communities in Transition (CIT) and Economic Growth (EGD) Divisions at Creative Associates International, Inc., an international development firm. He actively participates in the development, design, implementation and management of program activities in conflict and "fragile state" settings. Captain Hernandez routinely provides technical expertise on national and international development assistance methodologies and approaches, conducts research and analysis, and provides inputs helping to shape future investment methodologies and approaches within the various development sectors of developing countries based on his civil-military experience.

Captain Hernandez currently has 17 years of active military service, focusing his career on international efforts to improve the diplomacy, development and defense capabilities of partnering nations through strategic civil-military engagements and activities. His assignments have taken him across a multitude of countries, in conflict and pre/post-conflict environments, collaborating with foreign and United States government agencies, Non-government organizations (NGO) and private sector partners to coordinate the planning and implementation of civic action programs in support of Integrated Country Strategies. He has also managed the collection, analysis, processing and dissemination of field and strategic civil information, assisted in the monitoring of alternative development, government capacity and security enhancement programs to build partner nation capabilities.

Mario Hernandez

Latino Economic Development Center

Mario Hernández is the VP and COO of the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC). LEDC is Minnesota's statewide, membership, and ethnic based organization focused on transforming communities by creating economic opportunity for Latinos. At LEDC, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization, including fund development, human resources, financial administration and program management. He has previously served in policy development and project coordination roles for the State of Minnesota's Chicano Latino Affairs Council and Department of Human Rights. From 2005-2007 he served as the executive director of La Escuelita, a Minneapolis nonprofit providing academic and youth development programming for Latino immigrant youth.

He has over 10 years of experience in program and project administration, including community-led initiatives such as the Minnesota Latino Complete Count Committee. Mario's board service also reflects his commitment to Latino and immigrant communities. He currently serves as the president of the board of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and as a board member of HandsOn Twin Cities.

Allyson Hile

Kansas City Public Schools

Allyson Hile is going into her 4th year as Director of Language Services for Kansas City Public Schools. Previous to her current position, she served as an ESL Resource Teacher for five years, a sheltered middle school ESL Social Studies teacher for six years and a bilingual paraprofessional. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Truman State University, her teaching certification from Avila University and her Master of Science in Education from the University of Kansas.

Olivia Hogle

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

A native of Nashville, TN, Olivia moved to England in 2005 to work as a child protection social worker. During this time she worked with asylum seekers, refugees, and unaccompanied minors entering the UK. Olivia returned to the U.S. in 2011 where she continued her interest in working with international and vulnerable populations earning a Master's in Social Work from Boston College concentrating in Global Practice. In 2013 she volunteered with Hagar, an international NGO supporting survivors of trafficking and human rights abuses in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since 2013, Olivia has been a Program Specialist with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, in Baltimore, MD working with transitional foster and group care programs for unaccompanied migrant children.

Pilar Horner

Michigan State University

Dr. Pilar Horner received her joint Sociology and Social Work PhD from the University of Michigan and is currently an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the MSU School of Social Work and the Julian Samora Research Institute. Dr. Horner's research looks at decreasing health disparities with an emphasis on Spanish-speaking communities; specifically her work examines how social and cultural aspects of health disparities can be addressed to improve services and health outcomes. Her areas of focus include HIV/AIDS cultural prevention strategies in Latin America and the United States; deportation effects on children and families; substance use and misuse, history of social welfare policy, and organizations. She is a qualitative researcher and teaches social welfare policy and advocacy courses at MSU. For more information, please visit: www.pilarhorner.com.

I

Citlalli Ibañez

University of Minnesota Morris

Jorge Inzunza-Higueras

Turtle Creek Elementary School

Jorge Inzunza-Higueras is a psychologist, graduate of the University of Chile. He earned a Master in Social and Human Sciences from the University of Paris-Nanterre. His Ph.D. is in Education from the University of Campinas in Brazil. He is a researcher in global educational policies, history of education and affirmative action programs. Currently, he is a first grade teacher in the Dual Language Program of Turtle Creek Elementary School in the Delavan-Darien School District of Wisconsin.

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 the Interim Director 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.

Adrienne Johnson

Missouri Western State University

Adrienne Johnson is currently a faculty member in the Department of Education at Missouri Western State University, specializing in teaching culturally and linguistically diverse students. She teaches TESOL/ESL teacher preparation courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Adrienne has diverse experience working as a preK-12 teacher and coach within various language education models, including sheltered content-area (science, social studies, and language arts) instruction and dual language programs. She is currently completing a doctorate in Linguistics at the University of Kansas, with an emphasis in Second Language Acquisition.

David Cassels Johnson

University of Iowa

David Cassels Johnson is an assistant professor of education at the University of Iowa. Grounded in the field of Sociolinguistics, his research focuses on educational language policy and planning. He is co-editor (with Francis M. Hult) of *Research Methods in Language Policy and Planning* (2015, Wiley-Blackwell) and author of *Language Policy* (2013, Palgrave Macmillan).

K

Jean Kayitsinga

Michigan State University

Dr. Jean Kayitsinga is a sociologist demographer for the Julian Samora Research Institute. He received his Ph.D. in sociology at Michigan State University in 1999. His areas of specialization include rural sociology, sociology of families, demography, research methods, and statistical methodologies.

Mary Kindle

Amigos de Cristo, Sedalia, Missouri

Mary Kindle is a photographer living and working in Missouri. Her lifelong documentary project, Life in Mid-Missouri, explores the changing cultural landscape of central Missouri. She has worked with Ms. Elvera Satterwhite and the families of Amigos de Cristo for over five years to document the lives of Hispanic immigrants in the area.

Jill Kilanowski

Michigan State University

Jill F. Kilanowski is associate professor at the College of Nursing at Michigan State University. She 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 MSU, 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'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.

Leah Kinnaird

Iowa State University

Leah Kinnaird, MSW, LMSW is the Domestic Violence Liaison between Iowa State University's Child Welfare and Training Project and the Department of Human Services. She earned her bachelor's degree from Luther College and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She provides training around domestic violence to a variety of audiences including DHS workers and social service providers. In addition, she develops curriculum and resource materials and assists DHS in improving policy related to domestic violence. She is also available statewide for consultation on cases complicated by domestic violence issues.

Prior to joining Iowa State University, Leah worked for 5 years other areas of social services including adolescent residential treatment services, child therapy, and domestic violence and sexual assault victim services. In addition to being a licensed master of social work, she is a certified domestic abuse advocate. Leah sits on the Domestic Abuse Death Review Team, the Iowa Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee, and is the facilitator of the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee for DHS.

Ann Kraft

Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska

Ann Kraft is the Ambassador Program Coordinator. The Ambassador Program offers rural training experiences and mentorship opportunities to Nebraska students at the high school, college, and professional level. Ann is a long-time UNMC employee who earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Communication from Creighton University and started working at UNMC in 1985. She spent five years working in human resources followed by 14 years coordinating special events for the Department of Public Relations. In 2004, she joined the Rural Health Education Network (RHEN) where she coordinated programs to promote health careers to students from rural Nebraska. She also tracked the students and graduates who were participants in the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP).

L

Katrina Lundien

Alta Vista Charter Schools, Guadalupe Educational System

Dr. Katrina Lundien is an ESL Director for the Guadalupe Educational System, Inc.--Alta Vista Charter Schools in Kansas City, MO and offers independent ESL consulting work for schools & universities. She

has spent 18 years in public education advocating for English Language Learners (ELLs) in various capacities as an ESL Teacher, ESL Scheduler & ESL Instructional Coach. She has provided practical professional development exercises & tools that promote developing academic language proficiency across all content areas for ELLs at beginning, intermediate & advanced English language proficiency levels. She co-presented in a U.S. Department of Education Webinar with Dr. Jeff Zwiers (Stanford University) Developing Academic Language: Improving Reading and Writing Skills Across the Curriculum.

Stephanie Lynch

University of Iowa

Stephanie Lynch is a doctoral candidate at the University of Iowa. Her research interests include: literacy identities, migrant language learners, and language policy history. She holds a master's degree in Bilingual and Multicultural Education.

M

Chiara Magini

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

Chiara Magini has extensive experience in non-profit and volunteer program management and expertise in mainstreaming diversity and inclusion initiatives. In 2008, she published *The Implications of Immigrant Civic Participation in Community and Voluntary Organisations and Community Work with Integrating Ireland in Dublin*.

Samantha Martin

Michigan State University

Ena Martinez

University of Minnesota Morris

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.

Bridget McCandless

Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City

Bridget McCandless, M.D., is the President/CEO of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF) and is a Board Certified Internal Medicine Specialist with an interest in chronic disease management and poverty medicine. She has previously served as the medical director and co-founder of the Shared Care Free Clinic, which serves uninsured, low-income adults with chronic illness. She also works closely in the areas of health care reform, patient advocacy and health literacy. Dr. McCandless currently serves as the co-chair of the Infrastructure Committee of the Safety Net Coalition, as a Board member of the Missouri Chapter of the American College of Physicians, and on the Missouri Medicaid Oversight Committee. She served as President of the Metropolitan Medical Society, President of the Missouri Association of Free Clinics, Chair of the Healthy Independence Coalition, and was an inaugural member of HCF's Board of Directors. She continues in her proud role as mother to Maggie and Nate.

Lisa McCarty

Alta Vista Charter Schools, Guadalupe Educational System

Lisa McCarty, EdS serves as Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for Guadalupe Educational Systems, home of Alta Vista Charter Schools. Lisa earned her Bachelor of Science and Masters from University of Colorado, and her Education Specialist degree from University of Central

Missouri. Her career has focused on developing and implementing effective educational programming for under-served, under-represented, and under-resourced populations-- bridging educational and opportunity gaps. She has served as Teacher, Director, Coordinator, Administrator, and Consultant at the building, district, regional and state level. She is also founder of Culture and Language Matter, which consults with districts to more effectively serve and value culturally and linguistically diverse students. She lives, works, and serves as a community activist in Kansas City, MO. In her current role at Guadalupe Centers she is able to commit herself, unapologetically, to developing an educational system that is very intentional about building students' cultural identity in balance with their academic identity.

Rhonda McMillen

Missouri Protection & Advocacy Services

Janet N. Melby

Iowa State University

Janet Nieuwsma Melby, PhD, is Adjunct Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) at Iowa State University. Within the HDFS Department, she directs the Child Welfare Research and Training Project which provides contract supported training, outreach, and evaluations in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Bertha Mendoza

Kansas State University Research and Extension

Bertha G. Mendoza has been the EFNEP/FNP Extension Agent for the Southwest Area Office since 2009. Bertha holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Kansas State University and two Masters of Science in Special Education Adaptive and Gifted from Fort Hays State University. Bertha's special fields of interest are education, nutrition and health. She believes in the value of creating community partnerships and actively pursues collaboration as a way to address important community concerns. Bertha was born in Chihuahua, Mexico; she came to the United States in 1993. She lives in Holcomb, and has worked for education for the last twelve years in the areas of adult and family literacy and currently serves in the fields of Nutrition and Adult Education for low income audiences.

Denzil Mohammed

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

Denzil Mohammed is an intercultural communications professional and journalist who works to build understanding across boundaries utilizing an asset-based approach. He manages specialized online education, economic research initiatives and collaborative public events that promote immigrants as economic and social assets to America.

Angel Morales

Amigos de Cristo, Sedalia, Missouri

Angel Morales is a Production Supervisor at WireCo World Group in Sedalia MO. He moved to Sedalia in 1999 and joined the Pettis County Community Partnership as a volunteer to help the Hispanic community in Pettis county. He founded the United Hispanic Group to educate and help the community. During this time, he organized the first Hispanic radio show in Sedalia.

N

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Lincoln University

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall is a State Extension Specialist on Native Plants at Lincoln University of Missouri.

O

Joél Orozco-Almeida

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Joél Orozco-Almeida was born and raised in the state of Chihuahua in Mexico. His family moved to Colorado 12 years ago where he had the opportunity to attend Metropolitan State University of Denver where he graduated in May of 2012 with a major in Behavioral Science and a minor in Sociology. In the summer of 2013, Joel moved to the state of Nebraska to begin graduate work in Educational Administration with a Student Affairs concentration at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and graduated in May of 2015. He currently works at UNL in the Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services as a Program Coordinator.

Cristina Ortiz

University of Minnesota Morris

Cristina Ortiz is an Assistant Professor at University of Minnesota Morris. Her expertise is in Latina/o experiences in the US; rural life and communities in the US Midwest; immigration, transnationalism, and globalization; and race/ethnicity, gender/sexuality, and religion as components of identity.

P

Andrick Payen Diaz de la Vega

University of Missouri-Columbia

Andrick Payen Diaz de la Vega is a graduate student in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Uzziel H. Pecina

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Uzziel H. Pecina is an Assistant Clinical Professor and Program Coordinator in the Division of Educational Leadership, Policy and Foundations at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His research interests include educational administration and Hispanic/Latino education.

Alejandra Perez-Estrada

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Alejandra Perez-Estrada is a first generation immigrant born in Guadalajara, Mexico. She immigrated to Missouri with her family in 1994. She currently serves as a Retention Coordinator and Academic Advisor at UMKC in the University College unit. Prior to joining UMKC, worked at Kansas City Kansas Community College, where she focused her efforts advising Latino/a students, not only academically, but serving as a link for community resources and education opportunities. Alex graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies. Alex is also a mentor and a scholar for the Avanzando program at UMKC. She started out as a mentor but when she decided to pursue her Master's degree in Higher Education Administration, she applied to become an Avanzando scholar as well; acknowledging that no matter where we are in life, we all need a mentor. Alex volunteers as an Advisor for Latinos of Tomorrow, a student-led group that, with support of its advisors, prepares Latina/Latino youth for college success and beyond.

Michael Peters

University of Minnesota Morris

Michael Peters works with University of Minnesota Morris Community Engagement. He is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota Morris with a degree in World Languages.

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 at Urbana-Champaign

Marcela Raffaelli is an Associate Professor of Human and Community Development, and an affiliate of Latina/Latino Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the Center for Global Studies.

Athena Ramos

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Athena Ramos, MS, MBA, CPM, is the Program Coordinator of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Janet Range

Leadership and Entrepreneurship Public Charter High School, Oregon

Janet Range is Bilingual Teacher Program Supervisor for LEP Public Charter High School in Portland, Oregon. She coordinates educational programming and supervises eight teachers for transitional programs serving unaccompanied minor children run by Morrison Child & Family Services. Janet has been speaking Spanish since the 5th grade, has managed social service programs for migrant and Hispanic families, and has taught in Spanish dual-immersion programs in the public schools. She holds a Master's degree in Latin American Studies and a Master's degree in Teaching. She strives to bring these experiences together to forge seamless and effective partnerships between social services and education.

Katherine Richardson Bruna

Iowa State University

Katherine Richardson Bruna is an associate professor in the School of Education at Iowa State University. She is the director of the ISU 4U Promise. Her research interests include multiculturalism and bilingualism in schools and society, and teaching and learning in demographically transitioning community and classroom contexts. Before becoming the Director of the ISU 4U Promise, Richardson Bruna used her background in Hispanic Studies, Linguistics, and Sociocultural Studies of Education to produce ethnographic accounts of schooling, particularly as related to the science learning experiences of newcomer Mexican immigrant youth in Iowa's demographically transitioning communities. With support from the Iowa Department of Education, through the Iowa Administrators and Educators Immersion Experience (IAEIE), she traveled with three groups of Iowa superintendents, principals, ELL coordinators, and other education professionals to Villachuato, Michoacan, Mexico, in order to learn about the community, family, and schooling experiences Mexican immigrant youth bring with them into their Iowa classrooms. A chapter about the IAEIE is included in a forthcoming collection on the New Latino Diaspora. This theme and, specifically, her work on IAEIE will be the focus of her plenary remarks at the 2015 Cambio de Colores conference.

Nancy Rios

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Nancy Rios works for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Kansas City Regional Office. CMS is the federal agency of the Department of Health and Human Services that administers the Medicare program, has oversight of Medicaid, as it is partially federally funded, and administers several other health programs, such as the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Federally Facilitated Health Insurance Marketplaces. Nancy 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. She

is currently the Regional External Affairs and Marketplace Outreach Lead. Her teams are responsible for the implementation of national outreach and education campaigns on CMS' programs 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 Health Programs, and State Medicaid Agencies.

Jessica Rodas

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Jessica Rodas was just awarded a Bachelor of Health Science degree with a minor in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is a first generation college student whose upbringing has instilled in her a passion for education, multiculturalism, health, and public policy. Jessica is passionate not only about empowering communities and eliminating health disparities, but also education. Her interest in Latino/Hispanic health and civil liberties has fueled her educational work and research. Jessica recently completed an internship with the University of Kansas Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic which takes an inter-professional approach to address many health-related social issues. Additionally, Jessica has the honor of working for the KCK Saturday Academy as a science instructor and is an Avanzando Scholar. She is also co-founder of the Latina-based multicultural sorority Sigma Lambda Gamma at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a Sue Shear Fellow. Jessica plans to get her Master's in Public Health and attend law school to pursue a career in public service and health.

Griselda Rodriguez

Iowa State University

Maria Rodriguez-Alcala

University of Missouri-Columbia

Maria Rodriguez Alcala is a doctoral student in Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri. She has an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University and an MS also in Agricultural Economics from University of Missouri. Before beginning her PhD she worked for a think tank in Sao Paulo (Brazil). She then held a teaching/advising position at University of Missouri in Agricultural Economics and participated in various interdisciplinary projects, some involving documentaries in Cuba. As a researcher, she is currently interested in marginalized groups and interdisciplinary projects.

S

J.S. Onésimo 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.

Elvera Satterwhite

Amigos de Cristo, Sedalia, Missouri

Elvera Satterwhite has been volunteering in the Hispanic community since 1997, soon after the arrival of thousands of Spanish speaking immigrants arrived in Sedalia, MO to work at the newly-opened Tyson Foods plant. She was one of the founders of the Amigos de Cristo mission. She has a close relationship with hundreds of families and has developed many children's programs designed to help immigrant children have a successful future.

Jana Sawyer

Carthage Public Schools

Joyce Martin Sherrer

Oklahoma State University

Joyce received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Oklahoma State University from the College of Human Environmental Sciences. Her career experiences include teaching Vocational Home Economics at Pryor High School before joining the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. She was a long time Extension educator and county director in Craig County before assuming the position of Director of Staff and Program Development for Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. She is married to Gary Sherrer, Assistant Vice President for External Affairs, DASNR. They have seven children and three grandchildren.

Jessica Sierk

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jessica Sierk is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is currently working on her dissertation, a critical ethnography examining how high school seniors "come of age" in the New Latino Diaspora. Her research interests include schooling in demographically transitioning communities, critical media literacy, and teacher preparation as they relate to multicultural education and social justice.

Berenice Solis

Turtle Creek Elementary School

Berenice Solis's career is in the financial industry working with a diverse client base as a personal banker; she is a Community Reinvestment Act Mortgage Loan Officer. She is also an advocate and activist for the needs of the Latino students in Delavan, Wisconsin. Currently, she is the President of the PTO of Turtle Creek Elementary School. She is a student seeking the baccalaureate degree in social work and psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Jennifer Stacy

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jennifer Stacy is a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education. Her research focuses on the perceptions schools hold about newcomer families and how those perceptions are enacted through formal and informal familial partnership initiatives, such as family literacy programs. Her dissertation is titled Partnerships Through Adult Education: Re-conceptualizing Family Literacy in the New Latino Diaspora. Jennifer will be joining the faculty in the College of Education at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an Assistant Professor in the fall.

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.

Crissa Stephens

University of Iowa

Crissa Stephens is a doctoral student at the University of Iowa who lives life in two languages (English and Español). Her work focuses on language policy and educational opportunity for linguistically diverse students and families.

T

Margarita Teran-Garcia

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Margarita Teran-Garcia is an assistant professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Illinois. Dr. Teran-Garcia obtained her M.D. from the National University Autonomous of Mexico, UNAM, and did her pediatric residency at the National Institute of Pediatrics in Mexico. Dr. Teran-Garcia has experience in clinical nutrition, nutrigenetics, and childhood obesity. In August of 2008, she joined the faculty of Food Science and Human Nutrition as an Assistant Professor in Nutrition. She served as chair of the Latin American Affairs Section and is current Council at-large of The Obesity Society.

Maria Torres Galván

Kingdom House

María Torres Galván, MPH is the Coordinator of Program Evaluation at Kingdom House. Born in Monterrey, Mexico, and raised in South Carolina, Maria's passion for Latino and immigrant health is informed by her experiences growing up in an immigrant family in the South. Specifically, she's interested in understanding issues of access to care including documentation status, health literacy, and language barriers. After receiving her MPH from Washington University in St. Louis, Maria served the St. Louis immigrant community through her work at Casa de Salud, Language Access Multicultural People (LAMP), and currently Kingdom House.

Theresa Torres

University of Missouri- Kansas City

Theresa Torres, PhD is Associate Professor in the Latina/Latino Studies Program and Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her areas of expertise are Latina Latino Studies, immigration, race and ethnic relations, religious studies, and gender studies. Her current book, *The Paradox of Latina Religious Leadership in the Catholic Church* is an in-depth description of the on-going dynamics of religious identity and gender among Kansas City Latinas in the religious organization of the Guadalupe and published Dec. 2013 with Palgrave MacMillan. She is an interdisciplinarian, with research and scholarship from a number of fields: Race and Ethnicity, Latina Latino Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, and Religious Studies. Currently she is teaching two classes on Race and Ethnic Relations. She serves on several boards for non-profit groups and previously worked with non-profit agencies that serve the Hispanic community of Kansas City. As a scholar, she has direct contact on a regular basis with the urban populations of Hispanics in the Midwest.

Natalia Trinidad

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Natalia Trinidad is an Outreach Project Associate at the Center for Reducing Health Disparities. Her research interests include prevention of underage drinking, tobacco control and prevention, community engagement and outreach, racial and ethnic health disparities, healthy public spaces, recreations areas, and parks.

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.

Daniel Vélez Ortiz

Julian Samora Research Institute

Dr. Daniel Vélez Ortiz is an Assistant Professor at MSU with a joint appointment in the JSRI and the School of Social Work. His areas of research are in mental health services, community service integration, Latino older adults, and organizational factors. He is from Puerto Rico and has been in the Midwest since he left the island to study at Purdue University where he earned an A.S. in Organizational Leadership and a B.A. in Psychology. He earned an M.S.W. and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

W

Allison Walsh

University of Missouri-Columbia

Alli Walsh is a doctoral student in the University of Missouri's department of Educational and Counseling Psychology.

Angela R. Wiley

University of Illinois Extension

Dr. Wiley is Associate Professor of Applied Family Studies and Extension Specialist and is the Director of Child Care Resiliency Programs at the Child Care Resource and Referral Service. Some of her recent work includes a community needs assessment of Spanish-speaking families that surveys their child care needs and utilization patterns. She is collaborating with colleagues on the STRONG Kids project to examine family-childcare intersections for preventing obesity among young children. The Abriendo Caminos community project targets Spanish-speaking families with school-aged children and aims to support healthy lifestyle habits in the areas of eating, physical activity, and family mealtime.

Zelia Wiley

Kansas State University

Dr. Zelia Wiley is the Assistant Dean of Diversity Programs at the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University.

Z

Yessica Zúñiga-Tepango

University of Minnesota Morris

Yessica Zunig Tepango is a student at University of Minnesota Morris and is a leader of Voces Unidas, a student organization that aims to raise awareness and encourage understanding of various Latin cultures.